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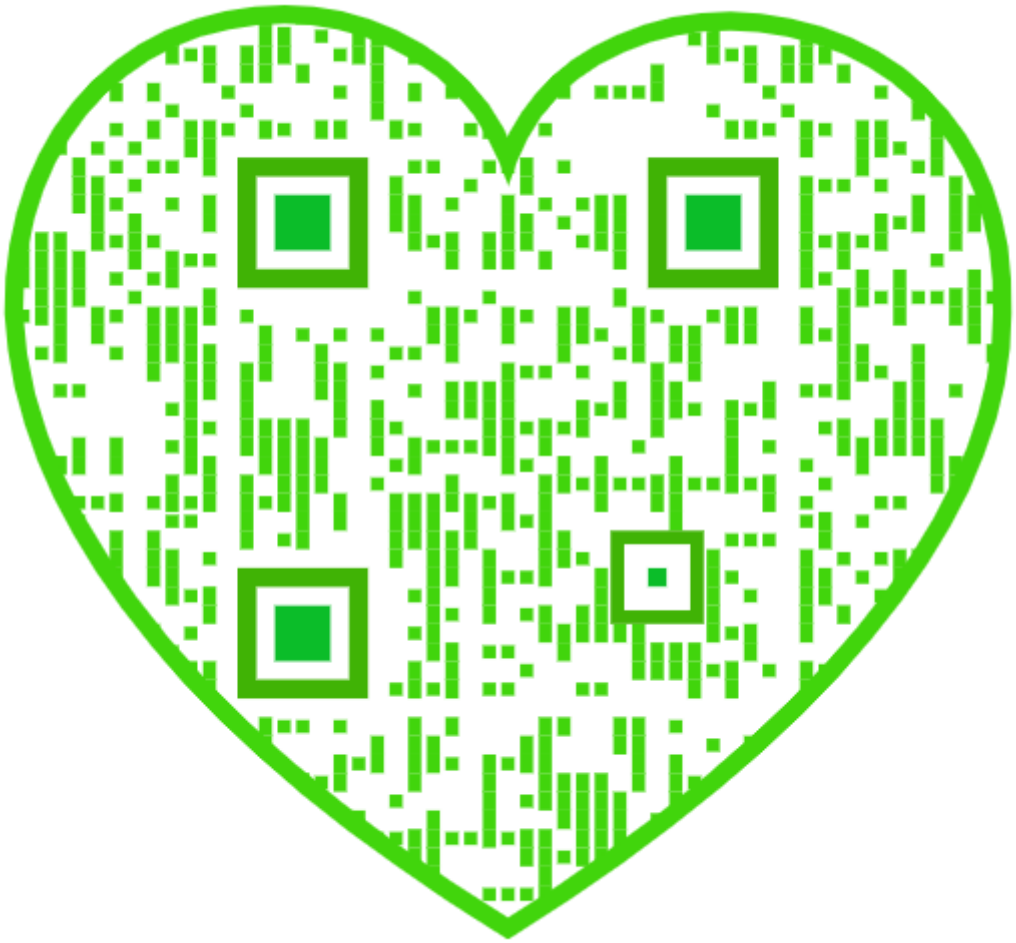

REPORT

ON THE

MAGNETICAL EXPERIMENTS

MADE BY THE COMMISSION OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF MEDICINE, OF PARIS, READ IN THE MEETINGS OF JUNE 21 AND 28, 1831,

BY MR. HUSSON,

THE REPORTER.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH, AND PRECEDED WITH AN INTRODUCTION,

BY CHARLES POYEN ST. SAUVEUR.

"La verite doit etre l'idole de celui qui etudie, les sciences avec quelque elevation philosophique."— ROSTAN.

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TO THE

DISINTERESTED LOVERS AND

COURAGEOUS PROMOTERS OF TRUTH,

THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED

BY THEIR

ADMIRER AND MOST RESPECTFUL SERVANT,

CHARLES POYEN.

INTRODUCTION.

What a miracle to man is man. — YOUNG.

Animal magnetism — its definition — conditions to exercise it — mode of operation — phenomena resulting from it — its truth demonstrated through analogy and reasoning — objections to it refuted. Theory of animal magnetism — its usefulness in regard to religion, morals, intellectual philosophy, physiology, and therapeutics — a sketch of its history down to the present time.

AMONG all the discoveries of the most remarkable period of time that extends itself from 1760 to the present day, there is one which, both by its character of marvellousness and the important results it brings forth, seems to me calculated not only to excite curiosity in the highest degree, but also to deserve the most earnest attention and interest of every enlightened mind. This discovery, indeed, exhibits, in a brighter light than any other, the moral power and divine origin of man, gives a new life to the religious principle, and furnishes unconquerable weapons to Christianity against materialism, which is already triumphant in some parts of the civilized

world — it opens a new and broad field to phsychological speculations, that seemed nearly exhausted by the labors of the preceding centuries — creates a new method of pathological investigation — settles therapeutics on a basis hitherto unknown to the medical world — enlarges and raises so much the domain or physiology, that we may qualify the modifications operated on it as true revolutions. The wonderful discovery alluded to, is that of animal magnetism, and of the phenomenon of somnambulism derived from it. It is that new order of facts, indisputably constituting a most interesting branch of the science of man, which makes the subject of the following pages.

This introduction, my readers will easily perceive from the summary view of its contents above placed, is designed to complete, as far as possible, their knowledge of the subject, by giving them all the informations that are not found in, and naturally ought to have been excluded from, a report made up entirely with facts.

What is understood by the words animal magnetism? I open the dictionary of Medical Sciences, published at Paris, volume twenty-first, and read that it is 'a peculiar state of the nervous system, during which some unusual physiological phenomena, not yet well appreciated, present themselves — a state which is ordinarily produced in one individual by the will of another performing certain manual evolutions for the purpose of causing it to take place.'

The indispensable, absolute, moral conditions to

produce any magnetical effect are comprehended in the following precepts of De Puysegur: — A firm will to do good — a strong belief in one's power, and entire confidence in using it.

There is but one physical requisite — good health. Thus it naturally follows that every person is not endowed in the same degree with the magnetical power; for all, in this case, depends upon the energy of the will; the capacity of mental concentration; the benevolence and bodily constitution of the operator. The manual proceedings in the practice of animal magnetism, consists in carrying the hands, upward and downward, along the nerves of the limbs, and in exercising certain pressures alternately on the forehead, shoulders, and the pit of the stomach. Magnetisers usually commence the operation by holding the patient's thumbs from four to five minutes in their own hands, until a like degree is established on either side. But the gestures — called *passes* — are necessary only in the first sittings; for, when a person has been magnetised several times, and proved sensible to the magnetical action, the magnetiser's will, without any motion, is sufficient to put him to sleep. Several instances of this fact are related in the report of the commission appointed a few years ago by the Academy of Medicine of Paris, to make experiments in animal magnetism and ascertain the truth.

The phenomena produced under the influence of the will and the gestures, vary according both to the disposition of the person to receive the magnetical

action, and the power of the magnetiser to exercise that action. Thus some individuals, especially those who are strong and enjoy perfect health, feel nothing, — some others feel only some heaviness of the eyelids, cephalgia, nausea, much calm, or great agitation. Finally, some are plunged into a peculiar sleep, called megnetical sleep, and reach, after a few sittings, that very singular state known under the name of somnambulism. The magnetical sleep is characterized by a complete suspension of the external senses. Somnambulism is the faculty of speaking during the sleep; of recognizing external objects through unusual ways; and finally of hearing nobody else but the magnetiser or the other person brought to relation with the magnetised.*

'What!' you will exclaim, 'is it possible, that by the plain action of the will, and a few insignificant gestures, one can produce so surprising effects? Does not this overthrow all the laws of nature and good sense? The age of miracles and magic is passed away, and man can be no longer a god or a sorcerer.' These are the exclamations of incredulity, that animal magnetism always suggests in most of the people who hear of it for the first time. Then that doctrine is doomed to contempt and ridicule, owing only to its appearance of singularity, and to its being not like the phenomena commonly observed. The man of the fashionable world cries, 'Miracles!'

*I need not to give here any further details about the magnetical phenomena. The reader will find an ample collection of them in the report.

hisses and laughs at this quackery of a new kind, and busies himself no longer with it. The fair one of the drawing-room says, with a smile of disdain, that it would be an excellent remedy to still her nerves in case of vapors, and busies herself no longer with it. The clergyman sees in it nothing else but an infamous attempt against religion — an inspiration of the devil, and hurls anathemas against it. The puritan philosopher affirms it is only an ignoble device of jugglers to subdue innocence, make money by deceiving the public confidence, and already points it out to the proscription of the government. The *savant*, especially the physician, proud of their pretended positive knowledge — convinced that nothing is true but what falls under the microscope or the scalpel — decided beforehand to treat as falsehood everything that does not come within the compass of their physiological and pathological theories — either looks at magnetism as an imposture, as a mere system of quackery, or considers it as one of those lamentable aberrations of the human mind of which history affords so many instances — as a miserable imitation of the proceedings used by sorcerers in the ages of darkness.

Such is the operation made against animal magnetism from its appearance in the world, and which it still now undergoes from the part of a great number of persons, notwithstanding its triumphant march and the innumerable facts produced every day in witness of its truth.

But let us examine a little nearer the value of that

opposition. In the first place, let us see what foundation it lays upon. I beg the reader to notice that it rests on no document or fact of a positive character. Indeed, the opponents of animal magnetism do not say — we ourselves have scrupulously observed or made the experiments used to produce the pretended phenomena, and in no case have we seen them manifested. They say only, that such a thing is so surprising, so unusual, so contrary to the physiological knowledges, that it is not possible to believe in them. Thence they draw the conclusion, that magnetism is an imposture. But is it not a method of reasoning evidently absurd, to condemn as falsehood what a great many respectable persons affirm to be true, only because the thing mentioned does not enter into the circle of phenomena commonly observed, and goes beyond the reach of our understanding? Who has not heard of sudden death without apparent cause — of those spontaneous combustions which sometimes reduce to ashes old drunkards? Shall we affirm that such facts never happen, because they depart from the ordinary course of natural phenomena?

Again, shall we deny the existence of volcanoes — of the fall of meteoric stones — the aurora borealis — all the curious and interesting effects of electricity and mineral magnetism — the periodical revolutions of comets, &c., because it has been hitherto impossible to give a philosophical explanation of the formation or cause of those wonderful

operations of nature? Verily, nobody doubts now-a-days the existence of the phenomena I have just mentioned, however extraordinary they may be. Indeed, the facts repeatedly observed do not allow the least doubt, and to believe them it is sufficient only to examine. From that series of analogous cases I come to a general conclusion; I mean that there are really but very few phenomena that man is allowed to understand. Whether he turns his eyes upon the innumerable variety of objects which surround him, or raises them up towards those worlds of planets and stars rolling above his head, everything is wonder and mystery to him. What a variety of beings — of different lives — from the insect of one day up to man — from the grain of sand up to the brilliant sun which is lighting us! Each of those beings has his own peculiar construction and properties — each of these lives has a mode of manifestation which distinguishes it from all others. And now let us try to discover, through a close and minute analysis, the intimate composition of each of those bodies, and the vital phenomena of their organization. Surely, by dint of attention and perseverance, we shall be able to put together a very great number of unknown facts, most of which will be such as to excite astonishment and amazement — even the incredulity of those who have not studied the science. All those facts can be deduced from one another, and understood through one another; but, definitively, we are unable to know the reason of their production — I mean the primitive cause

whence they emanate — the nature of the relations and secret ties which bind them together, without, however, confounding them. In short, it is possible to the genius of man to know something in nature; but that *something* can be but of facts only — that is, visible manifestations of the existence of beings. As to the why and how of those beings, we cannot discover — this is the secret of God. Here I take leave to remind you that every science is nothing but a collection of facts, disposed in an order more or less logical and luminous, connected with each other, and explained through certain theories. But those very theories are themselves reared upon a primitive law, which is so difficult to be accounted for, that we are obliged to admit it *a priori;* that is, as a matter beyond demonstration. Thus, chemistry is based on the fact of moleculary affinity and atomistic combinations; the phenomena of elictricity and galvanism recognise, as a regulating cause, the existence of two fluids, one negative and the other positive — which existence we must admit *a priori.* Newton judged it necessary to base the theory of planetary gravitation upon the hypothesis of the existence of two forces — the force of attraction or centripetal, and the force of projection or centrifugal. But you easily understand that this is a mere conjecture, begotten by the innate want in man to account for everything.

It would be easy here to accumulate numberless instances which demonstrate that the primitive cause of natural phenomena is, and ever will be, concealed

from and unaccountable to man, however active and extensive his organ of causality may be. From what has been said, I conclude that if the existence of the effects of magnetism is denied, because they cannot be understood by our ordinary method of scientific analysis, and depart from the natural facts commonly observed, we ought, also, to deny all the fundamental facts on which the science of chemistry, natural philosophy, astronomy, &c. are resting, because they cannot be accounted for by, and be submitted to, our instruments of material examination. Really, there is nothing to be wondered at in magnetism. It is a plain, natural phenomenon hitherto unseen and unknown to many. This is all. On this subject, I add, with Rostan, 'These are wonders and miracles for the fool only. The more ignorant and rude people are, the more miracles there will be; because, as they are not informed of the phenomena of nature, there is a greater number of facts which are beyond the circle of their knowledge, and which seem to them opposed to her laws. As people instruct themselves, the more their knowledge becomes extended and the less surprising facts exist. It is worthy of notice, that everything new and unaccustomed excites laughter, contempt, and astonishment. The true philosopher ought neither to despise nor to wonder; he ought to examine. If we wonder at one phenomenon because of its novelty, we might as well wonder at all others.'

Light, running millions of leagues a minute, and enabling us to recognize the existence of objects

placed at many millions of miles from us, and that in a moment, and causing the spectacle of the immensity of all nature to penetrate through an opening not larger than a pin's head, the pupil, is a miracle by far more surprising than the influence of one individual upon another at the distance of a few feet. Attraction, ruling the universe and making itself felt without an intermediate agent, at the enormous distance of one star from another, and so holding in space the heavenly bodies, in regulating their unchangeable courses, is again a wonder by far more astonishing; and yet, who pays attention to the magic of light and attraction? A very few learned men occupy themselves with it; the remainder of mankind enjoy their benefit without wondering, nay, thinking of them. And why? because they are habitual things.

The magnetical phenomena, it is said, are not only accountable and miraculous, but some affirm they are above the reach of human faculties — they are impossible. Impossible! has the sense of this word been sufficiently reflected upon? What is impossible to man? Let us consider the enormous works of all kind that man has been allowed to accomplish from the first step in social life down to the present stage of civilization? let us compare, for instance, the man of the savage state, with his miserable dwellings, his precarious, wretched existence amid the woods — so completely destitute of means of intellectual improvements, sunk into the lowest depths of moral degradation and idolatry — with the

mighty being who built up those splendid cities, furnished with every possible means to satisfy his physical and intellectual wants, to gratify his taste, elevate and adorn his mind, enriched with the knowledge of the true God. Finally, let us compare the savage with the author of those wonderful processes of conveying both ideas, persons and brute matter, to the remotest distance over the sea and the land, which makes him a cosmopolite — a universal being — 'a mortal god on earth,' as says a great poet, and we shall then feel the necessity to restrain, in some measure, the extent of the word impossible. For all those gigantic things have been accomplished, and nobody will contend against it, through a moral agent — the strength of will — 'that true column of virtue in man,' as Young says. It is doubtless from the consideration of so great a power, that Napoleon, in the highest pitch of his fortunes, declared that the word impossible should be taken away from the vocabulary. If man has been able to execute so many difficult and grand works by the general power of his will applied in particular directions, why could we not produce, by a peculiar application of the same faculty, the phenomena of magnetism, which are nothing else but an influence upon the nervous system of a fellow-creature?

If we examine man by the side of his divine origin, we have a still greater motive to conceive and believe the extent of his power. Indeed, the holy scripture teaches us that God created man in his own likeness and bequeathed unto him a part of his own

substance. Now, what is God? The infinite power — infinite love — infinite intellect. Therefore, man is necessarily organized with a part of these three attributes of his Creator. Why, then, wonder at the various manifestations of the divine spirit working in the favorite creature? Why affirm that it is impossible for man to operate such phenomena as to show what is most excellent in him, and through the purest and most energetic element of his organization, his will? Why deny the power in him to send from his body, by the act of this benevolent and sympathetic will, an agent capable of curing, or at least relieving a fellow-creature from sickness? Such an incredulity is not only unreasonable, but it is impious — it is decidedly opposed to the teaching of Christianity. Any good Christian will easily conceive the importance of this argument and cannot fail to approve it. Then, far from throwing ridicule upon animal magnetism and denying its existence, he will look at it with interest and love, as a convincing proof of his divine origin — of his organical power, and of the immortal ties which bind him to the infinite being from whom he emanated.

Among the most violent opposers of animal magnetism, it is, perhaps, surprising to meet a great number of scientific men, especially physicians. It seems, indeed, that this class of men — being, owing to their daily avocation, more apt to examine the phenomena of nature, her prodigious variety, her infinite resources and power — should have,

more than any other class, received the discovery of a new order of phenomena by the name of *animal magnetism*, with benevolence, or at least with the feeling of philosophical doubt which leads us to experiment by ourselves the announced facts, before denying them and crushing them down with contempt and ridicule. The characteristics of the true naturalist is to make experiments, even from hypothetical views; for it may happen in starting from an hypothesis to arrive at the discovery of very important phenomena. The true naturalist ought, then, to observe and study the facts, however insignificant, minute, or extraordinary they appear at first; for it is possible that one single fact is, in the universal order of things, a point concealing a whole new science; or, at least, a very great improvement in some of the sciences already established. Certainly, to those physiologists who have bestowed some attention upon the phenomena of animal magnetism, it is beyond doubt that their discovery brings an important change both in the science of the physical and moral organization of man in pathology and therapeutics. By what inconceivable fatality did some physicians oppose, with so much blindness and narrowness of mind, the establishment of that new truth, so productive of scientific results and benefits to suffering mankind? We are almost ashamed to say that they acted in this circumstance from the same reasons as the vulgar of men; because the production of magnetical phenomena is incomprehensible; because they are contrary to all the phy-

siological knowledge, heaped up by the experience of past centuries. That those phenomena are above the human understanding, I grant. But I beg the physicians to tell me how many operations of animal economy they can understand, either in the healthy or diseased state? Can they account, for instance, for the act of thought and will? for this of assimilation — breathing? for the formation and destruction of the living machine? Can they account for the periodicity of the intermittent fevers, and the formation and mode of existence of a crowd of other affections? — for the way in which the remedies, called specific, act upon such or such of our organs? (I need not name them here.) No; they must acknowledge in these cases, as well as in a great many others of the external world, they are and always will be in complete ignorance. 'If some persons,' says Sydenham, 'consider me, on this account, as unworthy of the name of philosopher, I would advise them to try by themselves their own strength in the works of nature, which everywhere offer themselves to our observation. Now, if some learned men are not ashamed to acknowledge their ignorance in such matters, why should we reproach the physician with being unable to explain the causes in a thing which is not less difficult, and goes, perhaps, far beyond the reach of human intellect?' So Sydenham expressed himself about the periodicity and and the seat of intermittent fevers. Let the physicians and physiologists of our days learn from this great man how to be modest and wise in their judge

ment on new natural phenomena they cannot understand. But that which is to my mind still fitter to inspire them with modesty and circumspection, is the very history of the science they profess. That history, properly speaking, is nothing else but a narrative of a continued struggle of opposed doctrines, which vary according to people and periods of time. How many hypothesis and systems! Hardly one has taken possession of the public opinion when a new one rises up. Then, war and revolution in the science. Let us notice, however, whence all those modifications proceed; whether from the discovery of a new phenomenon or from a different way of observing and interpreting some of the phenomena already known. At this present moment, there are upwards of eight various systems of pathology and therapeutics in the world called civilized. All this seems to me singularly calculated to inspire tolerance and a wise spirit of examination, instead of that blind opposition so unbecoming of a true *savant* and a friend of the human species. But what shall we think, what shall we say, when we know that this opposition was made with the utmost fury and extravagance against the very discoveries which were afterward recognised as the most beneficial to mankind? 'We cannot,' says Mr. Husson, the reporter of the commission appointed for the examination of animal magnetism, 'open the annals of our art without being struck, not only by the diversity of the opinions which have successively occupied its domain, but also by the little solidity of those judg-

ments which were thought firm at the moment they were brought forward, and that some new judgments have come to reform.' So in our days we have successively seen the circulation of the blood decreed impossible; the inoculation of the small-pox considered and proscribed as a crime; those enormous wigs with which many among us had their heads overloaded, proclaimed, by far, more healthy than the natural hair. Who has not present to his mind the proscription which struck all the preparations of antimony under the *decanat* of the famous Guypatin? Who could have forgotten that a decree of the Parliament, solicited by the Academy of Medicine, forbade the use of emetic?"

Physicians are aware that those extravagant opinions and judgments have been successively recalled. The circulatory motion of the blood is now universally acknowledged; inoculation of the small-pox is practiced everywhere; antimony and emetics used as very useful remedies in some cases. So it will be of the hasty judgment borne against magnetism among people; and already we see the first report made at Paris, fifty years ago, in opposition to that discovery, annihilated by another a great deal more substantial and sound, made three years ago, by a commission of the most respectable scientific body in Europe, the Royal Academy of Medicine at Paris. 'The magnetical phenomena,' it is said, again, 'are contrary to the physiological knowledge accumulated by the labors of centuries. So much the better for the science and mankind, if those knowledges were

erroneous, if falsehood is supplied by truth through the new discovery. Let us open the history of sciences, and we shall see that improvements of all kind were so accomplished. How many errors, how many gross absurdities have been rooted out by the labor of the modern — how many grand truths discovered, contrary to the opinions of past ages! I recollect having heard from Mr. Magendie, one of the most illustrious heads of modern physiology, that the Asiatic cholera had revealed some facts which thoroughly overthrew many points of pathological physiology which were thought settled forever. Well, it is just so with animal magnetism. The future will confirm, I am sure, the results already obtained by the practitioners of that new doctrine.

Moreover, if the discovery of new facts was to be opposed and rejected because it is contrary to received ideas, where would be both science and mankind at this day? At the very point from which it started — in the savage state. Again, if the discovery and the possession of truth is a sufficient motive to consider the authors, and the people who enjoy the benefit of those truths, as imposters, or sorcerers, or gods, what would the ancients say of us, should the dead be allowed to think and speak? Surely, they could not help looking at us as sorcerers or gods, as did the Indians at the sight of the Europeans arriving in their large ships and invading their land, armed with cannons and guns, and running from one place to another with frightful rapidity on animals of a new species. What would they

say of our modern savants, those philosophers of the school of *Thales* and *Democritus*, who believed the sun was not larger than Peloponesus, and that there were but four elements in nature — fire, air, water, and earth; if they heard by us that the sun is an inflamed body, the diameter of which is one hundred and twelve times that of the earth; that there are upward of fifty-five elementary substances, of which, neither fire, or water, or the air, or the earth, are a part; if, in one word, they were able to see the inside of our laboratory of chemistry and natural history, and our astronomical observatories? Finally, what would the physiologists and physicians of antiquity say of us, if they were allowed to know the admirable discoveries in anatomy and physiology made in this recent period of time, and which raises up the science of man so far above what it was in those remote ages? Certainly those men, however enlightened they might have been to their contemporaries, could not help considering us as impostors, or sorcerers, or gods.

May these considerations inspire us with wisdom and tolerance. May we learn from them not to wonder at the new facts we are allowed to discover in the nature of the infinite Being of which we are a part, and in the bosom of which we are all living. On the contrary, let us be confident of our original power, and ready cheerfully to receive every truth we are destined to possess, according to times and places, during our progressive development.

Now, my readers, I give up the ground of discus-

sion, properly said, to demonstrate through a few analogous facts already observed and known, how inconsistent it is to deny the existence of animal magnetism and shrink from making proper experiments on them to ascertain their degree of reality, because of apparent impossibility. Those facts I allude to are highly calculated, to my mind, to show the probability of the magnetical effects. Let us begin by stating that animal magnetism is a peculiar state of the brain and the nervous system, during which some unusual phenomena, beyond the power of man in the wakeful state, are manifested. Now, the facts I am about to set down here, prove that a peculiar state of the nervous system and unusual phenomena, also above the ordinary reach of man, can be produced very naturally without the instrumentality of animal magnetism.

In the first place, I quote dreams. Everybody has experienced that singular state in which the moral, intellectual, and especially sensorial faculties are so wonderfully exalted, while the body is in perfect repose. 'The intellectual faculties, exercised while dreaming,' says the celebrated professor Richerand, 'can lead us to a certain order of ideas which we never could reach in the wakeful state. So mathematicians have finished during their sleep the most complicated calculations, and resolved the most difficult problems.' The phenomena of dreaming is surely one of the most extraordinary, and, we may add, unaccountable, notwithstanding the ingenious theories made up about it. But there is another

phenomenon which bears a still nearer resemblance to the magnetical sleep — I mean the natural somnambulism. There is none who have not heard of certain individuals liable to speak aloud while sleeping; to get up and walk very straight with their eyes closed; to read and write with as much, and sometimes more, facility and success than in the wakeful state. This fact I have oftentimes witnessed, particularly in a college companion of mine, who, one night, went down from a second story in which we slept, opened a door, crossed a long inn, unlocked another door and entered the study hall, in which he set himself to writing, fast asleep, a Latin speech he had composed for the great prize at the end of the year. This composition being finished, the young man went back again to his bed. The next morning how surprised he was to find his speech already written! He read it through, found it perfectly correct, and gave it to the professor just as it was. Indeed, that speech won the prize to its author. A similar instance is related in the Methodical Encyclopedia.

We find in the histories of hysteria and catalepsy, some instances still more similar to the effects produced by the magnetical action. Patients afflicted with those diseases have been seen, isolated from all surrounding objects, entirely insensible to the action of the external objects, pronouncing long speeches, repeating by memory, suddenly seized with presentiments of the future, in such a manner as to throw the spectators into the greatest amaze-

ment. Their inward sense, activity of mind and intellectual power was so much increased and improved, that the results were altogether different from what they were in the ordinary state. I knew, in the neighborhood of the city of Blois, in France, a lady affected with catalepsy; during her fits, she lost wholly the faculty of seeing by her eyes, hearing with her ears, smelling by her nose; but she saw, heard, and smelt very well by the pit of her stomach. That lady was able to see a great way off, through the walls, and foretold what was to happen at many days interval. She prescribed remedies for herself; announced in what manner and at what time she would cure; and everything took place according to her predictions. When I saw her she had already recovered her health. Numerous instances of this kind are related in the works of Dr. Petetin of Lyon, on catalepsy.

'In reflecting on such facts,' says Dr. Georget, 'we can but acknowledge in them a great analogy with the magnetical effects; for, in both series of facts we find the following characteristic phenomena. First, suspension, more or less complete, of the external senses. Second, increase of energy, a concentration of the thinking power upon one object. Third, possibility, in some cases, to find a substitute for the ordinary action of the senses; to write, for instance, with the eyes closed. Fourth, Possibility to communicate with a person in somnambulism by touching him, and to talk with him without awaking him.'

As for the power that one man has to produce upon another person, through the sole action of his will, the extraordinary effects called magnetical, we should not wonder at it, for a similar power is granted to some animals of prey — that of striking with stupor; nay, of drawing under their grasp some other smaller creatures, destined to be used by them as food. This fact naturalists are aware of; for myself, I affirm I have observed it in the Island of Martinique not long ago. There exists in that island a species of serpents, gray and yellow, extremely poisonous, which possesses the fascinating power to a high degree. They exercise it especially upon a pretty little bird called the nightingale. From the moment the poor creature's eyes have met the snake's, it must fly down nearer and nearer until it falls its prey, which it does, moaning in the most piteous manner. This singular power of fascination and attraction may be easily conceived and accounted for, if we reflect that a very similar property finds itself even in some brute, inorganic bodies. I allude to the wonderful property — yet acknowledged by every one — of the loadstone to draw to itself other metals.

Now, if some animals of a lower class — nay, a brute, inert body — possess so extraordinary power, why could not man, the best organized of all living creatures, possess some analogous faculties to affect, in a certain degree, his fellow-man when sick?

But there is another order of analogous natural facts, the mode of production of which bears a still

nearer resemblance to that of the magnetical phenomena. I allude to electricity and galvanism. Everybody knows that the powerful and marvellous effects called galvanic and electric are produced by the mere contact of pieces of different metals disposed in a certain order, and by the plain rubbing of some silk against some resin or glass. This, I repeat, everybody knows and fully acknowledges. Why, then, deny to man, the best organized and most perfect body in nature, the power of producing those effects, called magnetical, by placing himself in contact with another of his fellow-creatures? Verily, if the phenomena of magnetism are incredible, there is something, to my mind, still more difficult to be understood. It is the inconsistency and narrowness of mind which characterizes the judgment of men on certain subjects. They very readily grant wonderful faculties to pieces of dead matter, and they deny the same faculties to the smartest and most powerful agent in nature, a human brain in activity.—*O stulti homines, et tarde corde credendum!*

Theory of Animal Magnetism.

But, is it possible to give a satisfactory explanation of the magnetical phenomena? Some persons will, doubtless, answer in the negative; for my part, I say that, even in admitting that the cause and mode of production of the phenomena should really be above

the human intellect, it is still our duty to try to find them out. It is the privilege of man to be able, or to make himself able, to understand the laws of nature. Is there a nobler pleasure, a more gratifying motive of pride, to a moral being? Such is the feeling that leads me to the following considerations.

I have said and I repeat, that any sober and sensible mind — in a word a true philosopher — before admitting or denying, ought to ask himself whether such a thing is possible or not. Then he will recur to analogy, that is to say, to the examination and comparison of the various orders of facts already known and settled. Thence, and thence only, he will draw his opinion; but in holding fast this truth, the greatest of all, viz: that the power of nature is unbounded, that there are impossible things only because human knowledg does not yet embrace, and cannot yet understand them.

Such were, doubtless, the principles of some of the master intellects of this age, who, through inductions drawn from the labors and observations of their whole life, bore testimony in favor of animal magnetism, as an order of phenome a altogether within the limit of natural things. Among those men, I am pleased to find Blumenback, Hufeland, the celebrated Cuvier, Mr. de Laeplace, the illustrious author of the new doctrine of the faculties of the brain or phrenology, Dr. Gall. Cuvier, in his "*Leçons d'Anatomie Comparée*," Vol. 2, p. 117, 9th Leçons, expresses himself as follows: "We

must acknowledge it is very difficult in the experiments which are made about it — the action that the nervous system of two individuals can exercise upon each other — to distinguish the effect of the imagination of the person experimented upon, from the physical effect produced by the person experimenting. Yet the effects obtained upon persons already senseless before the operation was commenced, those which take place upon other persons after they have become senseless through the very operation itself, and those that are presented by animals, do not allow us to doubt that the proximity of two animated bodies, in a certain position and with certain motions, has a real effect, independent of the participation of the imagination of one of them. It appears evident enough, that those effects proceed from a certain communication, whatever it may be, which takes place between their nervous systems."

De La Place, in his work entitled "*Theorie Analytique du Calcul des Probabilitiés*," says, p. 358, "It is natural to think that the action of the '*magnetical agent*' is very weak, and can be easily troubled by a great many accidental circumstances. Thus, because in many cases it has not been manifested, one should not conclude it does not exist."

Here is what Dr. Gall says about it, in his "*Anatomy of the Nervous System*," Vol. 1, p. 146-48. "It is not at all my intention to lead people to think that I will deny the magnetical fluid. The naturalist ought to acknowledge no other laws than those of nature. I acknowledge a fluid, which, especially, has

some affinity with the nervous system; which can emanate from one individual, pass into another, and accumulate itself, by the effect of its peculiar affinity, in certain parts, rather than in others. An observation that I have made upon myself, confirms me in this opinion, independently of all the true phenomena of magnetism."

I will abstain to relate here this observation, which is expressed in rather too long and minute particulars in the original work to be presented here. In consequence of this fact, and of further reflections suggested by it, Dr. Gall concludes thus: "Therefore, we admit the existence of a fluid, the subtraction of which diminishes the strength of the nerves, and the accumulatio of which increases that strength —a fluid which puts one part of the nervous system to rest and exalts the activity of another part; which, consequently, can produce an artificial somnambulism. In like manner, as in dreams, thoughts often have more acuteness and sensation, more sharpness, as it is possible to hear and answer, to get up, walk, see with the eyes closed, to touch with the hands in the natural somnambulism; so we conceive and acknowledge that similar phenomena can take place in the artificial somnambulism, nay, in a higher degree of energy and precision."

These few reflections of the man who is justly considered one of the most eminent physiologists and anatomists of this age, seem to me peculiarly fit to lead us to the right understanding of magnetical phenomena. Some more remarks, drawn from the

ordinary course of every one's observations, will completely justify, to my mind, Dr. Gall's opinion on the existence of a magnetical fluid, and make clear to us the nature of that fluid, and the wonderful effects of its transmission into another's body.

It is a fact well known and universally acknowledged, that there are some acts, bearing especially on the brain or the nervous system of the organical life, which, by being often repeated or sustained during a certain length of time, produce in us the feeling of weakness, of an extreme fatigue, sometimes of faintness, and cause us to feel an urgent want of rest and reparation. Such are long and intense study, deep sorrow, and extreme joy; tears shed in very great abundance, immoderate bursts of laughter, the delivery of long, passionate, and enthusiastic speeches. These acts, everybody is aware, are often productive of the effects I have just mentioned; nay, they are sometimes the cause of death. Men, indeed, have been heard of, who have died with joy or sorrow; and laughter, especially, is so weakening, that the words, *to die by laughing*, is known as a proverb everywhere. Again, individuals have been seen dying suddenly in the middle of a warm speech. A great many persons are often afflicted with that sort of disorder called nervous, in consequence of too long and hard study. I have been unwell for four years, and am so still, on that account. All those phenomena, it is also well known, are effected without loss of any sensible matter from our conomy, as blood, humor, or any solid part of our

organs, as that happens in great hemorrages, in dysentery, pulmonary consumption, old wounds, amputation of the limbs, &c. How, then, shall we account for those effects? It cannot be but by admitting a loss or excretion of a certain substance, whatever may be the name given to it. That this substance is neither perceptible to our eyes, nor appreciable to our common instruments and scientific methods to analyze matter, I am aware. But, as there are in nature some other substances, as light, caloric, electricity, which do not fall under the cognizance of our senses, and cannot be submitted to our scientific processes of analysis, so we may conceive a substance, of an analogous nature, existing in human organization, and some of which, being lost through the acts alluded to, causes the phenomena, above described, to take place. That such a loss is really effected, there is no doubt; for how can a person, from the full strength and harmony of his functions, become weak, faint, and even sick, by the effects of certain modifications of his nervous system, if some of that very substance or agent, which before kept them strong and healthy, has not been taken away from his body? How can he feel want of reparation, if he has not lost something? Thence I conclude that man contains within himself a certain substance, extremely subtile and nice, a fluid, running over all his body, intimately and deeply connected with his organs — a fluid that can be accumulated or lost through peculiar circumstances. Now, if that substance can be taken away from the

body of one individual, we may just as well admit that it could be taken away by the special will of this individual; furthermore, we may, logically and from analogy, admit that it can be sent to another body, whatever it may be, but especially to the body of a human being, which, owing to its similar constitution, has more affinity to the fluid alluded to than to any other in nature. Such is, according to my opinion, the true and only cause of the magnetical phenomena. In reality, we may say that magnetising is nothing else but the sending of a certain quantity of fluid by the will of one person to another person; that the magnetical sleep and somnambulism are peculiar states, determined by the inward action of that fluid. It will be asked, perhaps, whether there is in the act of magnetising a loss similar to those abovementioned? This loss certainly takes place; since, in consequence of the act he has performed, the magnetiser always feels a great weakness, fatigue, and want of reparation and rest. It will be asked again, whether the person magnetised really receives within himself the fluid which I suppose to emanate from the magnetizer? I answer, certainly. The magnetised person does receive that fluid; since sensations, hitherto unfelt, a state of being entirely unknown to him, are developed under the sole influence of the operation he is undergoing. There is no effect without a cause. Could the extraordinary phenomena of animal magnetism be produced without cause? That cause, a great many think, is *imagination* only. But this ob-

jection can be brought forward but by individuals absolutely destitute of knowledge and experience in magnetism. It is abundantly demonstrated* that *imagination* plays but a small part, if it plays any, in the production of those phenomena? What is then the cause? No doubt the action of the fluid, communicated by the will of an active person to a passive one.

Inquiries have been made about the nature of that fluid or agent. The recent researches of Messrs. Prevost and Dumas, dispose us to think that this agent has the greatest analogy with the electrical fluid. Those physiologists have demonstrated that the muscular contraction was the result of a true electrical commotion. The celebrated Professor Beclard was about to perform curious experiments on this subject, when a premature death took him away from the science that he cultivated with so much zeal and intelligence. Dr. Rostan says that Beclard often told him that after dissecting and cutting up a nerve of a considerable size on a living animal, he often caused the pole of the magnetic needle to deviate, by putting that needle close to the nerve. But everybody is aware that galvanism, substituted to the nervous influence, is able to make the nerve contract — that one can put into action the muscles of an animal, recently dead, by touching them with a piece of metal. We know how

* See in the Report the effects produced by magnetism alone.

Galvani and Volta saw and proved the existence of operative fluid, which afterwards was acknowledged to be the same as electricity. We also know that certain animals have the singular property of secreting, through the means of an apparatus disposed on purpose by nature, a great quantity of electrical fluid, with which they produce strong commotions, sometimes so violent that they can kill, at a distance, other fishes and even men. The Torpedo nake, the Torpedo immaculata, marmorata, galvanic, the electric gymnote, the electri cui silurus, &c., possess that singular faculty. The electrical apparatus of these various animals are disposed in a manner very much like the galvanic tubes. They are composed of cells and pipes, of various shapes, containing a gelatinous fluid and furnished with a great multitude of nerves, proceeding, most of them, from the eighth cerebral paer. According to Alex. de Humbolt and other learned zoologists, this electrical fluid is s creted by the brain of those animals; for, in taking off either the brain or the nerves which resort to the abovementioned apparatus, the effects are annihilated, which does not take place by cutting off the organ of circulation, which carries the blood into those electrical batteries. Thus it is demonstrated that the brain secretes some electric fluid — that the muscular contractions can take place by an electric excitant. Thence I conclude that the nervous agent is of the same nature as the electric fluid. But that agent does not go to the muscles or the skin only; it springs out with a certain force

and energy, and so forms a true nervous atmosphere — a circle of activity like that of electrical bodies. This is the opinion of the most skilful physiologists; such are Reil, (exercitatio anatomica, fasc de structure nervorum,) Autenrieth (Physiologie, section 1031) Mr. de Humboldt, &c. Therefore, we are now able to account perfectly well how one individual can be influenced by the action of the will of another individual, even at distance, and more than that, from one room to another. For the nervous agent, as well as caloric and electricity, possesses the faculty of penetrating through solid bodies.

But, in admitting that a communication of a certain quantity of the substance we call nervous magnetical fluid, really takes place from one person to another, is that fluid — the sole cause — productive of the numerous and wonderful phenomena of somnambulism? On this point, let every one believe what he thinks the most rational and probable. It would not be at all impossible that the magnetical agent or fluid communicated, really produces all those phenomena; for the power of an agent is in proportion to its nature, to the centre from which it emanates, and to the degree of energy with which it is sent forth. Now, what substance in nature more subtile, penetrating, active, and nice, than the animal electricity or nervous agent? What centre of action more admirably organized than the cerebral centre, by which the nervous fluid is secrete? What more energetic and extensive principle of action, than human will? With some caloric and a

little water, we move enormous bulks of matter; with a few grains of fulminating powder, we blow up large rocks; by the contact of two metallic pieces against each other, or the rubbing of some glass against some resin, we produce the wonderful phenomena that everybody knows by the name of electrical. Why should not an emanation of the most perfect instrument in creation — a human brain — produce those effects, which really seem so extraordinary to us only because we are not accustomed to observe them. Besides, it is not necessary to admit that the magnetical communicated fluid is the only cause productive of the phenomena of somnambulism. That fluid may be merely the determining cause of a peculiar state of the brain and nervous system, during which those phenomena are manifested, in like manner as any other therapeutical agent creates new phenomena in the organs to which it is applied. Anybody, who is somewhat acquainted with the laws of human economy, will perfectly understand this.

Connection of Animal Magnetism with Religion, Morals, Intellectual Philosophy, Physiology, and Therapeutics.

That which shows how far man is liable to absurd and blind preventions, to gross and shameful misrepresentations of things upon which he hastens to pronounce his sentiment before fairly examining and con-

scientiously study ng them, is the charge brought against animal magnetism, by some fanatic clergymen and bigoted persons, to be a stratagem formed by the devil to seduce the souls, increase the number of his followers, and counteract the works of Jesus Christ and of his ministers; that magnetism undermines religious belief and morals — that every magnetizer is a disciple of Lucifer, &c.

These objections hardly deserve refutation ; yet I will, in a few words, show the absurdity of them, as otherwise some weak-minded persons might be influenced by them. That refutation will, besides, bring to light, in certain respects, the usefulness of animal magnetism. 'In supposing, says the respectable Mr. Deleuze, that the phenomena of somnambulism cannot be accounted for through physical causes, and in considering the results of this marvellous state, it would be more natural, and, especially, more logical, to attribute them to God than to the devil, since magnetism cures, or at least relieves the individual submitted to its action. It is contrary to the principles of the Christian faith, to admit that the devil contributes to good, unless it be to cause that good to turn to evil. Now, the sole design and effects of magnetism is to relieve the patient; its only means of action are benevolence, compassion ; and the care taken of those who suffer and those who exercise it can efficiently act but in proportion as they are animated with charity, which, as St. Augustine says, is the only characteristics of the children of God. Therefore, magnetism, far from furnishing

arms against religion, disposes to cherish, reverence, and follow the principles of it. Many men of worth have been converted again to Christianity by the exercise of magnetism."

These reflections I will strengthen with a fact that bears an indisputable testimony of the fitness and efficiency of magnetism to dispose hearts to Christian feelings, and bring back to religion those who were miscarried by the wild speculations of materialism. Mr. Georget, one of the most esteemed physicians and writers of the modern school of medicine, in France, on his death-bed pronounced the following words, which are inserted in his testament: "I shall not finish this piece," says he, "without adding an important declaration. In 1821, in my work on the physiology of the nervous system, I loudly professed materialism; but I had hardly published that work, when some new meditations upon a very extraordinary phenomenon — somnambulism — did allow me no longer to doubt the existence, within us and out of us, of an intelligent principle, altogether different from material existence. It is, if they wish, what is called the soul and God. My conviction on this subject is profound, and founded upon facts that I believe indisputable." As to the charge brought against animal magnetism, to be a suggestion of the devil, I find a peremptory refutation of it in the following words of one of the fathers of the church, St. Anthanagora, concerning the wonderful faculties of Sybilles and Pythias: "As to the faculty," says he, "to forsee the future and to cure diseases, it is

a stranger to the devil; it belongs to the soul only. Indeed, the soul, owing to its immortal nature, can, from its own power and by its proper virtue, penetrate into the future, and cure infirmities and diseases. Why, then, attribute the glory of those faculties to the demons?"

In consequence of the foregoing considerations and facts, we ought to conclude that animal magnetism is highly calculated to promote religious principles and faith in the dogmas of Christianity. On this subject, its usefulness cannot be doubted. Let us examine now its actual effects and tendencies upon the morals of those who practice it. A crowd of attacks have been directed against magnetism, on account of the abuse that the magnetizer can make of it upon the person submitted to his action. Mr. Rostan, in his article inserted in the dictionary of medicine, has pointed out those pretended dangers in a very particular manner, and goes so far as to call the watchfulness of governments upon the exercise of magnetism. But those objections fall before experience, and those fears are altogether unseasonable. In the first place, we should not forget that magnetical power can be obtained and exercised but on the condition only to use it for the good of the patient. This is a fact stated not only by magnetizers, but also by somnambulus themselves. They have at all times affirmed that they preserved their judgment and reason; that they would immediately perceive the bad intentions of the magnetizer, which would cause them to awake without failing; for it

appears that the state of somnambulism cannot exist under the influence of immoral feelings and desires. Finally, experience fully justifies these assertions; for no cases have been heard of, down to this day, of abuse committed upon the honor or life of the person submitted to the magnetical action. Moreover, in order to avoid any appearance of danger, one should suffer himself to be magnetized, either by men only who offer sufficient warranties of morality, or by a person of the same sex as their own. I finish this article by a few words more, quoted from the respectable Mr. Deleuze. To sacrifice one's time near by a patient — to take painful and steady care of him, it is necessary to be animated with a benevolence which is the source of almost every virtue. Magnetism being especially a family medicine, is it not extremely fortunate that a father and a mother may possess one main move to gain the confidence of their children? Is it possible to conceive anything more admirable than this faculty, that one might call divine, to cure a patient, and also to contribute to his physical and moral improvement?

From all this, we are led to conclude, again, that animal magnetism is rather advantageous than hurtful to the morals of people, since it requires and developes such fine qualities of the mind to be successfully practised.

In regard to intellectual philosophy, anybody, who has occupied himself with the high and arduous and so long debated problems, which constitutes almost wholly this branch of human knowledge, will

very readily perceive and acknowledge the importance of the magnetical phenomena. I sincerely call the attention of the philosophical intellects who may happen to read this work, to this new and wide ground of discussion. For my part, I shall make but one reflection ; if there is a fact which furnishes any probability of the existence of an order of beings altogether different from matter, it is certainly the fact of the power in man to transmit, by his will, a fluid, so nice, active, and subtile, that we may consider it as a spiritual substance ; and to determine, through that transmission of fluid, the wonderful phenomena of somnambulism, in which the material senses seem to be entirely suspended, and which, however, presents the intellectual and moral faculties supernaturally unfolded and acting as by their own proper virtue.

I come now to the usefulness of animal magnetism with respect to physiology and medicine. But here the materials press upon me in so great abundance, that I really feel embarrassed to class them and to present them with the clearness and extent they require, within the narrow limit prescribed to me. This sole point of the broad question of animal magnetism, to be well treated, should embrace a whole volume. Therefore, I point it out to the meditation of those who have devoted their attention to the interesting studies of human organization, and their life to the improvement of their fellow-creatures. I shall endeavor only to give a faithful outline of the question before us, as it appears to me

from the observation of facts, and the opinions of authors.

If the magnetical phenomena are true, and this we may fully admit from experience, what are their results in regard, first, to physiology? In my opinion, the chief result is to verify, in human economy, the existence of a peculiar fluid or agent, called nervous by some, and which we may name magnetical; thence the circulation of this fluid over all the body; thence a bright light thrown upon the nature, the formation and modification of the nervous system; upon the secret acts of the organical life upon nervous diseases, which proceed either from a too great accumulation or a too great loss of the nervous fluid through various circumstances; all those points which were hitherto involved in a thick darkness, are suddenly brought to the evidence of facts well observed and almost materially demonstrated. In this respect, we may say that the discovery of animal magnetism creates a new era in the history of medicine, as well as the discovery of the circulation of the blood, of Peruvian powder, and cow pox.

Let us now examine the results flowing from the diagnosis and treatment of diseases. "Though the diagnosis of the diseases of the solid parts of the human frame has been brought, in this later period, to a high degree of certainty, we ought, however, to acknowledge that, in a good many cases, this diagnostic is yet obscure, difficult, nay, impossible in the actual state of scientific knowledge. This branch of the science, notwithstanding the re-

cent assistance of chemistry, is yet in its infancy, in regard to the alterations of liquid, and especially of imponderable fluid. Now, am authorized to think, from the facts I have related, that the instinctive faculties of a somnambule could help us to rectify, enlighten, or confirm our judgment upon the alterations of solids in obscure circumstances, and brings in the way important discoveries, which are to be made in the alterations of liquids and fluids. Those faculties might be useful, above all, to clear up the history of nervous, of cutaneous affections, and of a great many chronic affections. They could, perhaps, penetrate into the causes which often escape our eyes. A physician often judges a disease as inflammatory, while it is only nervous. A good somnambule could then remove his doubts and correct his errors.

Therapeutics has been greatly improved by the labors of the moderns; but, we must confess how impotent it yet is in a great many diseases. It cannot and ought not, then, to disdain any new assistance; it would find some, I believe, in the lights afforded by the somnambules, applied to the research of remedies, and to the treatment of certain acute and chronic diseases, the most grave and incurable.

"That which characterises the great physician is the medical tact, which science can develope and improve, but cannot give; a faculty half instinctive and half rational, by the means of which he investigates the various morbid individualities, and seizes the indications that suit each of them. This happy

combination, both of instinct and intellect, which is genius, is very rare. Most physicians are reduced to the lights painfully acquired by their intellectual labor, through which they know some general rules, but are unable to detect the peculiar cases, to the diagnostic and treatment of which they are obliged to be constantly groping. Now, in somnambulism, instinct is especially unfolded — a faculty remarkable in certain beings, and extremely proper to find out the individual wants. Why could not the instinct of well-tried somnambules be united to the intellect of physicians, for the treatment of grave and doubtful diseases. The instinct of the former would feel and discover what the intellect of the latter would judge and rectify; the physicians, in their turn, would propose the curative means, that the somnambule would sanction or condemn, according to the urgency of the case. What is the legitimate ambition of the physician? to cure; therefore, he should, if he be consistent with himself, recur to every possible means to reach the purposed end, provided it should not be contrary to morals. Animal magnetism should be, then, applied to the affections which would require it in like manner as opium, Peruvian powder, emetic, and other remedies. Benefit can be derived from somnambulism, as from auscultation and percussion, &c.

The absolute power of the magnetizer, and the passive obedience of the somnambule, open a new and broad field for curative effects in the diseases of those submitted to its action. In the first place, the

somnambule is plunged into the magnetical sleep, which possesses all the benefits of natural sleep, and possesses them in a still higher degree. It is, besides, accompanied with benefits which are denied to the other; therefore, its curative effects are more rapid and better marked than those of the latter; often times, it alone is sufficient to cure; and whenever it is necessary to use some other medicament, it still remains the chief, the most efficacious of all remedies. This most precious sleep will prove useful in every disease, provided it be administered with mo - eration, and that, during its duration, the operator abstains from any experiment of mere curiosity upon the patient. Happy, then, are those whom nature has endowed with the capacity of enjoying the magnetical sleep. The somnambule is also able to see his own illness and the remedies for it; — the magnetizer approves or rejects them. But what good is he not capable of doing, by his will, to that suffering being who is sleeping before him! He wishes, and he takes him away from the atmosphere of men and things, which are often so fatal, and places him in that which is more beneficial to him. Is the patient cold, he warms him; is he warm, he cools him. He blows upon his pains, and those pains are removed; he turns his tears into laughter, his sorrow into joy. If he misses his country or his mother, the magnetizer shows them to him; is he feeble, he gives him strength; is he too strong, he weakens him; does he take the symptoms of another's disease, he draws them off from his body; if he is to undergo a surgi-

cal operation, he palsies his sensibility, so that he does not feel it. In one word, the magnetizer commands all his functions. If a point is suffering, he can relieve it, and set a revulsive upon another part. I could not finish if I undertook to detail every peculiarity of the empire of the magnetizer. Of what, indeed, is he not capable, who has all power over the person submitted to his action! This is, certainly, a medicine of a new kind, a medicine from one man towards another. Man first sought remedies, to his own diseases and the diseases of others, among the inorganical substances, such as vegetable and dead animal substances. He found, and still finds in them some good and efficacious medicaments; but his greatest medicinal power is within himself — the sovereign remedy is himself. A firm and moral will, full of benevolence and charity, in a healthy and strong body — this is the greatest modification of all diseases, in general; this is true, especially of the diseases of somnambulic persons, or of those who are susceptible of the magnetical sleep."

The foregoing considerations are extracted from the work of my friend Alfred Fillassier, a distinguished physician of the faculty of Paris, and one of the best men I ever knew.

In the celebrated article on animal magnetism, inserted by Mr. Rostan in the dictionary of medicine, Vol. 21, there is a long paragraph devoted to the therepeutical effects of magnetism. This paragraph could not be too long meditated upon by physicians,

especially by those who carry on their noble profession as real friends of mankind and true philosophers, advancing towards truth out of the narrow sphere and routine of party spirit. There are found in a learned and animated discussion, a great abundance of original thought, sound reasoning, new and courageous views; in a word, this article is a fair specimen of the genius of modern philosophy and of the French medical school, of which Mr. Rostan stands as one of the brightest luminaries. I regret very much that the limit of this article does not allow me to quote here the whole paragraph; but I will extract a few sentences.

"They were very inconsiderable physicians, physiologists and philosophers," says Mr. Rostan, "those who denied that magnetism could have any therapeutical effect. It is not sufficient that it produces changes in the organization, to conclude that it can possess some power in curing diseases. From the moment a substance effects a change, whatever it may be, in the animal economy, it is impossible not to acknowledge that it acts; and on that account, one must be very audacious to conclude, *a priori*, it cannot be useful. The substances truly destitute of medicinal action, are those only which produce no effect. But all those which produce some change in our organization, however feeble you may suppose it, can become useful in many circumstances. The more energetically a substance acts, the greater will be its medicinal utility. It belongs to a fool only, to assume that a substance which acts cannot become

useful in any case. In order that it become so, it is necessary to study its mode of action upon the economy, and try to appreciate rightly the nature of the change produced by it. Afterwards, having a profound knowledge of the diseases, of their causes and nature, it would be possible to appreciate in what case the studied means are proper, and through sober experiments one would obtain some useful results. Farther, Mr. Rostan says, the theropeutical power of magnetism exists, it is beyond doubt; to the physician it belongs to study it without hesitation, and to set proper limits to it. The direct influence of this nerve agent upon the nervous system, make me believe that its action ought to be efficiently exercised against nervous diseases, and chiefly the nervous diseases of a general character. Histeria, hypochondria, melancholy, mania, epilepsia, and catalepsia, might receive, and have already received from it, the most beneficial influence. Spasms of all kinds, the cramps of the muscles of the animal life, convulsions, a great variety of pains, rheumatism, certain *amaurosies*, certain deafness, some paralysis, neuroses of all kinds, &c., ought to undergo, from magnetism, a modification, whatever it might be. In these nervous affections, the nervous system being especially troubled, and the same system, above all, being influenced by magnetism, it is easy to conceive that some results, worthy of attention, must be obtained. It would be too long to quote instances of successful magnetical treatments; the annals of magnetism are filled with facts of that sort. But

will the power of this new agent be limited to the diseases of the nervous system only? We know that the brain extends its empire over all the other organs. This master organ, being by that means profoundly modified, can it not produce, in its turn, some advantageous change in a suffering part? In suspending the pain, will it not produce a first benefit? The pain being suspended, will not the afflux of fluids, which is determined by it, be also suspended? Will not the material causes of congestion, irritation, obstruction, conveyed by those fluids, and which increase the local evil, be entirely removed? Shall we not thus prevent the further progress of the evil, and its resolution?

'If we only suppose the pain is stopped, and this effect is indisputable, we already see that the result is very great. And what will it be, if physiological experiments prove, in an incontestible manner, that magnetism quickens the interstitial absorption? Therefore, in acute, nay in chronic diseases, the magnetical action can produce good effects.' I cannot better close this article, than by stating here the avowal of one of the most eminent members of the French academy of medicine, Mr. Virey, who was formerly a most decided opponent of animal magnetism, but who, afterwards, could not help but acknowledge its truth.

When it is a question of the transmission of diseases, the adversaries of magnetism admit some emanation; whereas they attribute to imagination only the transmission of health, though the one be

as possible as the other. Why, indeed, should we be more susceptible to receive the former than the latter. The same writer says, somewhere else: 'Incontestible facts, real cures are mentioned, that the opponents of magnetism do not deny, but attribute to imagination. These wonderful cures have been effected through very plain manipulations, and similar cures were obtained once by means of the touch. Magnetism acts efficiently in a great number of diseases; such are certain slow affections, certain obstructions of the glands, of the abdominal viscera, piles, chronic phlegmatics, measles, small-pox, ophtalmia, inflammation of the throat, gout, rheumatism, hemorrages, epilepsy, hyponchondria, hysteria, mania, headach, odontalgy, all kinds of nervous pains, dyspepsia, colic, pains in the stomach, usual vomiting, asthma, palpitations of the heart.'

I will add one fact which bears witness of the efficiency of magnetism in the cure of diseases. In France, and almost every country in Europe, magnetical treatments have been established, by which thousands of patients have recovered their health.

The narrative of a great many cures has been made, either by individuals, among whom are three hundred physicians, or by the Society of Harmony. The exposition of the cures made in France, fills up two Vols. 8vo.

Sketch of the History of Animal Magnetism.

A convincing proof of the reality of animal magnetism, is the trouble taken, by some very distinguished men in Germany and France, to demonstrate, by numerous and thorough historical investigations, its existence in early ages. The work entitled, 'Researches and Doubts upon Animal Magnetism,' published in 1784, by *Thouret*, one of the most learned members of the Academy of Medicine, first drew the attention of the followers of that new doctrine and practice upon the great number of analogous facts, related by historians, which are connected with it. Since that first publication, the labors of German physicians, and especially of Messrs. Bertrand, Deleuze, and the Earl of Abrial, a French peer, have fully substantiated what was at first but a subject of doubt and conjecture. Owing to those recent labors, we are able to follow the track of animal magnetism among the Egyptians, the Jews, the Greeks and Romans, and, at a later period, in the various countries of Europe. Everywhere we find it with the essential characters that the modern observers assign to it. This is the opinion of the Commission of the Royal Academy of Medicine. Whatever may be the name given to magnetism and the powers which determine it, its practical part can be expressed in two main points. First, the curing of diseases. Secondly, the phe-

nomena of somnambulism. Now, in studying the history and customs of the ancients, we see cures and phenomena produced through the means of the same proceedings as those now in use. They are *frictions, touching, breathing, the imposition of the hands, and prayer.* More than that, the ancients knew perfectly well the real or imaginary power of music and magnetised objects; such as talismans and amulets. Somnambulism, and most of the marvellous phenomena which accompany it, the insensibility of the external senses, the exaltation of the intellect, intuition, the instinct of remedies, sight without the assistance of the eye, communication of thoughts, &c., were also known. Somnambulists have been successively designated by the names of *Oneiropoles*, inspirers, fairies, sorcerers, extatics, convulsioners — such were the convulsioners of St. Medard, in France. This singular state had struck with amazement and admiration the greatest men of antiquity. Most of them being not able to account for it, the natural causes being yet unknown, attributed them to the beneficial interposition of the gods, Isis, Osiris, Serapis, Apollo, Vulcan, Jupiter, Esculapius, &c. The fathers of the church, and some modern savans, among whom I will cite *Dehaen*, miscarried by the spirit of their time, and the popular prejudices, saw therein nothing else but the action of the de il. This ignorance of the primitive cause of magnetical phenomena kindled up the piles of the middle ages, and was the spring of numberless superstitions, lamentable schisms, and the most odious cruelties.

Let it be sufficient to have thrown a slight glance upon the history of animal magnetism in the past ages; and let us arrive at the moment when it was brought from the narrow and dark sphere of secret practices into the broad light of publicity. This great change, which may be well termed a true discovery, was effected by Antony Mesmer, born at Weiler, on the Rhine, in Germany. Mesmer had studied physics with the celebrated Van Swieten and Dehaen. Being naturally endowed with a genius of inquiry, an exalted and active imagination, he indulged, from the earliest period of his career, in researches about the influence of heavenly bodies upon the nervous system. This influence he attributed to a peculiar, universal fluid. He wrote a dissertation entitled 'De Planetarum Influxu,' in which he sustains that doctrine. A short while after, he had opportunity to ascertain the truth of his conjecture, by experiments made on a sick person with some pieces of metal, impregnated with loadstone, which had been handed to him by a learned Jesuit — Father Hell — a professor of astronomy at Vienna. After two or three successful experiments with those pieces, Mesmer noticed that another principle beside the general natural agent, the *will*, caused the loadstone to act. From this admirable observation, we may date the existence of the branch of science called animal magnetism. Mesmer was then able to perform many important cures at Vienna. He wrote another pamphlet, in which he announced the nature and action of magnetism, and

its analogy with the loadstone and electricity. Soon after, he set himself at travelling in Swabia, Switzerland, and Bavaria, and obtained everywhere both success and a great degree of fame.

Passing all the particulars concerning his various experiments, his subsequent travels over his own country, the numerous obstacles opposed to him both by envy and ignorance, we come to the time of his arrival at Paris, in 1778. Having caused an excitement there, and acquired a great reputation by the wonderful cures* he performed, Mr. D'Eslon, a member of the Royal Academy of Medicine, and first physician of the king's brother, studied his doctrine, and declared himself his follower, in a publication entitled, 'Observations sur le Magnetisme Animal.' Through D Eslon's instigation, the king at last appointed a commission, formed of various members of the Royal Society of Medicine, and the Academy of Sciences, to make an investigation of animal magnetism in every respect. As the report made by that company of distinguished and popular men exerted a great influence over the public mind, and is still now the most formidable authority for a great number of persons in this country against animal magnetism, I think it necessary to enter into some particulars, to show how little confidence the

* These facts may be found in the work of Thouret, of the Academy of Medicine, entitled 'Recherches et Doutes sur le Magnetisme Animal;' also in D'Eslon's 'Observations sur le Magnetisme,' — Bergasse's 'Considerations sur le Magnetisme,' &c.

said report really deserved, and how hasty and superficial was the conclusi n inferred from it by the public. In the first place, I would have it understood that the commission did not resort to the inventor's house, but to that of Mr. D'Eslon — his disciple. Mesmer protested against anything d ne elsewhere than in his presence. He repeatedly addressed the most urgent entreaties about it to Franklin and the Baron de Breuteuil, but all was in vain. Those gentlemen did not even think it worth their while to honor him with a word of answer. Our readers will easily conceive how unfair, and odiously unjust, was such conduct, by reflecting that Mesmer's magnetical power was by far superior in every respect to that of Mr. D'Eslon or any one else, at that time. That power was almost extraordinary, as far as we can judge from the facts transmitted to us by respectable eye-witnesses.* Is it not likely that Mesmer could have brought the truth of animal magnetism to such a degree of evidence that the commission, however sceptical and adverse, would have forcibly acknowledged it? But that which is still better calculated to show how little confidence the report alluded to deserves, is the manner in which the experiments were carried on. Let us hear about it from the commissioners themselves. 'The distinguished patients who come to the treatment for their health,' say they, 'might be plagued with questions;

* Among the persons cured by Mesmer, were the celebrated Advocate General, Bergasse — the chemist Berthollet — and the banker Kornman.

the care of observing them might either trouble or displease them. The commissioners themselves would be embarrassed by their discretion. Therefore, they have decided that their assiduity in this treatment being not necessary, it was sufficient that some among them should come now and then to confirm the first general observations — to make some new ones, if there were an opportunity, and give an account of them to the commission.' Thus, it is established as a principle, that in the examination of so important a fact, the commissioners should not ask any question of the persons submitted to the experiments — that they should not take care to observe them, nor to assiduously notice the courses of operation ; but that it was sufficient to come thither now and then, in order to give an account, to the commission assembled, of what they had each seen. On this subject, Mr. Husson, the reporter of the last commission appo nted by the Academy of Medicine, of Paris, judiciously expresses himself as follows : ' However bright may be the light reflected upon the present generation by the reputation of Franklin, Bailly, Darcet, Lavoisier — whatever may be the respect which surrounds their memory — however general may have been the assent granted during forty years to their report — it is certain that the judgment they have borne, fails, at its radical basis, by a wrong and loose manner, to proceed in the study of the question they were appointed to examine.' But here is another fact, which most decidedly bears witness against the conduct and judgment of

the commission. Mr. de Jussieu, whose reputation, as a naturalist, is universally spread — whose probity, exactitude, and candor can not be questioned, having assiduously and conscienciously followed the experiments, and experimented by himself with success, separated from his colleagues, and published another particular report, in which he recognizes the magnetical effects. 'In such a circumstance,' says again Mr. Husson, 'which of those two reports deserves to stop our indecision? Is it that in which it is announced that questions will not be asked of patients — that they will not be strictly observed — that it is not necessary to assiduously attend the experiments? or the report of a laborious, attentive, scrupulous man, who is courageous enough to separate from his colleagues — to trample upon the ridicule with which he is aware he is to be covered — to brave the influence of the power, and publish a report, the conclusions of which are altogether opposed to those drawn by the commissioners? Let every intelligent and moral man decide the question.

I now proceed to a comparative view of Mesmer's doctrine and process with the doctrine, and mode of operation of modern magnetizers. Such a view is highly calculated, to my mind, to exhibit, in a conspicuous and clear manner, the improvements made, these forty years since, in the theory and practice of animal magnetism.

'According to Mesmer's doctrine, animal magnetism is a fluid universally spread. It is the means of a mutual influence between the heavenly bodies, the

earth, and the animated beings. It is continued in such a manner as any void cannot take place; its subtlety is beyond comparison. It is capable to receive, propagate, communicate all the impressions of motion. It is susceptible of a tide and ebb. The animal body feels the effect of this agent, and it is by insinuating itself into the substances of the nerves that it immediately affects them. Properties similar to those in the loadstone, may be recognized in the human body. Poles, likewise, various and opposed, are discovered in it. Both the action and virtue of animal magnetism can be communicated from one body to another; that action takes place at a remote distance, without the assistance of any intermediate object. It is increased, reflected by glasses, communicated, propagated, increased by sound; it can be accumulated, concentrated, conveyed. Although this fluid is universal, every animated body is not equally susceptible of it. There are even some, but those are few, which have quite a different property.

'Animal magnetism can cure immediately the nervous pains, and mediately the other pains. It makes more perfect the action of medicaments — provokes and directs the wholesome crisis, so as it is possible to overwhelm them. Through its medium, the physician knows the state of health of each individual, and judges with certainty the origin, nature, and progress of the most complicated diseases; he can stop and even cure them, without exposing the patient to any dangerous effect or hurtful

consequences, whatever may be the sex, temperament, or age. Nature offers, then, in animal magnetism, a universal means for curing men or preserving them from sickness.'

Such was Mesmer's doctrine. *Now*, those persons who have written upon magnetism or practice it, admit neither the existence nor the action of that universal fluid, nor do they admit a mutual influence between the heavenly bodies, the earth, and the animated beings, nor those poles and opposed current, &c. Some reject the existence of any fluid whatever; some others think that the magnetical agent, which produces all the phenomena we have mentioned, is a fluid existing in every individual, but which is secreted and emanated only by the will of him who wishes to impregnate with it another individual; that, by the act of his will, he puts that fluid to motion, directs and fixes it as he pleases, and wraps the person acted upon with that atmosphere; that, if he meets in that individual some moral dispositions analogous to those existing in him, the same fluid is unfolded in the magnetised person, which gives birth to those relations which identify the one with the other — relations, which cause the sensations of the former to be communicated to the latter, and which, according to modern magnetizers, explain how the persons who fall into somnambulism possess the faculty of seeing perfectly well, their eyes being closed, &c.

If we now examine the proceedings used to practise magnetism, we shall see again a complete dif-

ference between those once used by Mesmer, D'Eslon, Jumelin, Father Hervier, &c., and those used by modern magnetizers. Here are the particulars transmitted to us by the commissioners of the king about the proceedings which were resorted to before them. They saw, 'in the middle of a large hall, a circular box made with oak wood, standing about one foot and a half above the floor; this was called the *baquet*. The cover of this box was pierced with a great many holes, through which sprung out as many iron rods, elbowed and movable The patients are placed on many ranges about the *baquet*, each of them touching one iron rod, which, owing to the elbow, could be applied upon the sick part. A rod is passed about their body, and unites them together. Sometimes another chain of patients is formed by communicating with each other by the hands. The impression being received on the left, is transmitted to the right; it so circulates around. A piano-forte stands in a corner of the room, upon which various tunes are played, on various motions; sometimes the sound of the voice or singing is added to it. All those who magnetize, hold in their hands an iron rod, from ten to twelve feet long. That rod, which is the conductor of magnetism, concentrates the fluid in its edge, and makes the emanations of it more powerful. The sound of the piano is also a conductor of magnetism. The patients, ranked in many circles around the *baquet*, receive then the magnetical influence by all those means at once, viz: the iron branches, which transmit the fluid of the

baquet — the rod tied about their bodies — the union by the hands — the sound of the piano. The patients are also magnetized in a direct manner — that is, by the finger and the iron rod of the magnetizer carried before their faces, above or behind the head, and upon the sick parts, but especially by the application of the hands, and the pressure upon the hypondres and the low regions of the abdomen. That application is continued a long time, sometimes during two or three hours.'

Such were the proceedings used, by Mesmer and his followers, to practice magnetism ; and one easily conceives, from the above description, that it was impossible that the imagination would not be deeply excited by the sight of those apparatus — the exercise of those processes upon a great many persons at once in the same room — by the sound of the piano, and the spectacle of the crisis or rather convulsions, which never failed to take place, and sometimes with so frightful gestures, that the magnetical room had received the name of *Enfer a Convulsions.*

Now, on the contrary, magnetizers look no longer for witnesses of their experiments ; they help themselves neither with the influence of music nor the power of imitation. The magnetized person is either alone or in the company of a few relatives and friends ; they are no longer tied up with ropes ; the *baquet* and th iron branches coming out from it have been given up Instead of the pressure once exercised on the hypochondres or the abdomen, magnetizers content themselves with some motions

which seem at first insignificant, and produce no mechanical effect. They carry their hands gently along the arms, thethighs, and the legs; they slightly touch the forehead and the epigaster. These touchings have nothing in them contrary to decency, since they are exercised over the dressing apparatus. Moreover, the above described motions are often made without touching, for frequently the magnetical effect is obtained by carrying the hands at a distance of many inches from the magnetized, nay, of many feet, and sometimes he being not aware of the action effected upon him.

But is it in the results once obtained and those now produced, that we find the greatest difference. The same commissioners already mentioned, speak as follows of the effects they had witnessed. 'During the experiment, the patients exhibit a very various picture by the different state in which they find themselves. Some are calm, still, and feel nothing, some others cough, s it, feel some slight pain, a general or local heat and sweat; some others, finally, a e tormented and agitated with convulsions. These convulsions are extraordinary, both by their length and strength. From the moment one commences, many others follow in succession. The commissioners saw some of them which lasted more than three hours. They are accompanied with the expectoration or spitting out of a troubled and viscous water, sometimes mixed with filaments of blood. They are characterized by involuntary and precipitated motion of every limb and the whole body, by

the straitness of the throat, quick and internal muscular agitation of the stomach and hypochondres, the troubled and wandering state of the eyes — by piercing cries, tears, hiccoughs, and immoderate laughter. These fits are followed by a state of languor and revery, and a sort of debility and numbness. Nothing is more astonishing than the spectacle of these fits. One must see them, to have a correct idea of what they are; and by seeing them, one is generally surprised, both by the profound rest of one part of the patients, and by the agitation which animates the other — the various accidents which happen, and the sympathies that are established. Some patients become so fond of each other, that they seek each other, and hurry towards one another, smiling and laughing, and speaking with affection — and so mutually soften their convulsive state. All of them are submitted to the operator; vainly they are plunged into apparent drowsiness; his voice, a look, a sign from him, draws them off from that state. It is impossible not to acknowledge, from these constant effects, a great power that agitates the patients or affects them, and which the operator seems to dispose of as the only possessor. That convulsive state is called crisis, in the theory of animal magnetism.'

Now, there are no longer convulsions; if any nervous motion manifests itself, the magnetizer applies himself to stop it immediately. Every possible care is taken not to trouble the persons submitted to the magnetical action, and that operation is no longer a

spectacle. But if those crises, cries and convulsions are no longer observed, another phenomenon, which had not been produced by Mesmer, and is not mentioned in the report of the king's commissioners, viz., *magnetical somnambulism*, has been discovered, and presented itself to modern experimenters as the most extraordinary subject of research and meditation.

Mr. De Puysegur, a man of great birth and wealth, highly respected for his benevolence and moral qualities, was the first who observed that phenomenon, and made it known at the end of the year 1784, four months after the publication of the abovementioned report.

About that time — in 1786 — the revolutionary trouble broke out in France; the minds of the people became so much taken up by political questions, that it was really impossible to bring into publicity any other matter. From that moment, animal magnetism seemed to have dropped from public notice, and lost its first brightness. Yet it was still practiced by some firm believers, who found that it constantly fulfilled their expectations in regard both to science and health. Nay, we may say that, although secretly practiced, it acquired a considerable extent, especially in Germany, where whole sects of philosophers took hold of it as a foundation to their doctrine.

During that period of time, Mr. De Puysegur published his memoirs, which are still considered as standard works on magnetism.

In 1813, Mr. Deleuze, the librarian of the Museum of Natural History of Paris, and whose veracity, probity, and honor everybody in Europe fully acknowledges, issued his celebrated '*Histoire Critique du Magnetism Animal*,' in which he devoted a long chapter to the phenomenon of somnambulism. This work brought animal magnetism to a high degree of importance, and some distinguished intellects began to occupy themselves with it.

In 1819, Mr. Bertrand, formerly an engineer from the Polytechnical School, and now a doctor-physician of the faculty of Paris, delivered a course of public lectures on this subject. This course was so well attended, that Mr. Bertrand repeated them in 1820 and 1821, with not less success. In 1822, he published his '*Traite du Somnambulisme et de l'extase*,' which raised him to the rank of the most learned and profound intellects of this century.

Two years previous, in 1820, public experiments on magnetism had been made at the Hotel Dieu of Paris, in presence of a great many respectable persons; among whom were found several professors of the faculty. Those experiments were completely successful, and put the truth of magnetism beyond doubt in the mind of all who witnessed them.*

The 11th of October, 1825, Dr. Foissac, a distinguished physician of the Faculty of Paris, and a skillful magnetizer, wrote a memoir to the Academy

* The narrative of these experiments, written from the notes taken by Dr. Husson himself, the chief physician of the hospital, has been published.

of Medicine, in which he invited that learned body to make a new examination of animal magnetism. Mr. Foissac's proposition was discussed, finally adopted, and a commission was appointed to investigate the subject. The members chosen, were Bourdois de la Motte, Fouquier, Gueneau de Mussy, Guersent, Itard, Leroux, Magendie, Marc, Thillaye, Husson, Double. A regular course of experiments was commenced by these gentlemen and pursued during four years. Their reputation and the length of time they were engaged, make it certain that the experiments were carefully made and can be fully relied upon.

In 1831, a report, on the facts observed by the commission, was read before the Academy of Medicine. The report contains a full account of most of the experiments, presented in a progressive manner, from the most doubtful cases to the most evident and striking proofs of the magnetical action. It is written in a plain, lucid, and very philosophical manner; and its tone and character show that it was carefully considered by scientific and sceptical men, who could neither be imposed upon by falsehood and jugglery, nor led to exaggeration by enthusiasm or credulity.

Finally, there is now no fact better ascertained than this of animal magnetism. Almost every leading scientific man bowed to it and tried to make out the theory of those newly discovered phenomena.

The celebrated Cuvier, in his 'Anatomie Comparie,' Vol. 2, p. 117, and the Marquis of Laplace,

in his 'Traite Analytique du callail des probabilities,' have mentioned it as a truth. Gall, in his Anatomy of the Brain, acknowledges it. Spurzheim believed in it. *Hannmann* declares that they are but *madmen* who deny it. Dr. Rostan wrote a long and very profound article on it in the Dictionary of Medicine, in Vol. 20. Dr. Georget also devoted to it a long chapter in his Physiologie du Systeme Nerveux. Dr. Andral delivered two lectures on magnetism, comprised in his course of internal pathology. Dr. Broussais tried it with the greatest success at the hospital of Valde-Grace — and now public theses are sustained, on magnetism, for the degree of M.D.

In Prussia, the celebrated savant and benefactor of mankind, Hufeland, after declaring himself against magnetism, has bowed to evidence, and uses it in his practice. An extensive clinique has been established at Berlin, in which patients are successfully treated by that method. The Academy of Sciences of the same city, one of the most distinguished, learned bodies of Europe, proposed, in 1818, a price of thirty-three hundred francs for the best memoir on animal magnetism. In the same country, Prussia, a royal ordinance, issued February 7, 1817, allows regular physicians only to exercise magnetism, and enjoins to those who carry it on to give account every three months of the results obtained, before a superior commission.

In 1815, the Emperor of Russia appointed a commission on purpose to make examination of animal magnetism. This commission having declared, from

their experiments, that magnetism is a very important agent, which should be trusted to the hands of well-informed physicians only, it was ordered that those physicians who would occupy themselves with magnetical cures, are bound to give accounts of their operations every three months, and that the commission itself should, every three months, present a report to the emperor. A decree of the Medical College of Denmark, of December 21, 1815, and another subsequent ordinance of January 14, 1817, impose upon physicians the same obligations, and prescribe to the local authorities to take care that magnetism be not practiced by any other sort of people whatever. In various other parts of Germany and Denmark, Hernstaedt, Mekel, Klaproth, Shiglits — all of them stand high in the scientific world — have delivered up themselves to researches on animal magnetism, and stated the truth of it. At Frankfort, Dr. *Passavant* has published a very remarkable work, in which he exposes not only facts, but also the moral and psychological consequences arising from them. At Groningue, Dr. Bosker, who enjoys a great reputation, translated into the Dutch language the critical history of magnetism by the honorable Mr. Deleuze, and joined it to a volume of observations made in the clinique he has established together with his brother physicians. At Stockholm, public theses on magnetism are sustained for the grade of doctor. At St. Petersburg, Dr. Stroffreghen, first physician of the emperor of Russia, and many others, pronounced their opinion in

behalf of magnetism, and declared its usefulness. Near Moscow, the earl Panin, formerly a minister of Russia, has established in his land, under the charge of a skillful physician, a magnetical clinique in which a good many important cures have been effected.

From the foregoing statement of imposing facts, who can reasonably doubt the existence of animal magnetism? To deny it, would be to suppose that men of the highest worth, two learned bodies of the first respectability, governments known for having surrounded themselves with the best physicians, could have, in various places and at various times, fallen the dupes of miserable jugglers or enthusiasts, and executed, propagated, ordered and favored labors merely chimerical. To your good sense and morals, I wholly refer to judge what is probable and true in this case.

Here I finish my task. I shall not, however, lay aside my pen before apologizing, in a few words, for the great imperfection of my English idiom. My only, and I believe best, excuse is, that I am a foreigner, and have been acquainted with the English language, but for twenty-two months. Moreover, I never would have attempted to issue a book in that language, had I not relied upon the assistance of an intelligent friend of mine, who not only encouraged me in the idea of that publication, but also took the trouble to read, with the greatest care, my manuscript, and of correcting every improper word. This he must have done well, for he is a scholar, both in

his native tongue and in the French language, which he had opportunity to learn during a residence in Paris. Besides, being already acquainted with the subject of animal magnetism, on which he had issued several articles, and to which he felt a very lively interest, as every liberal and enlightened mind ought to do, he found himself in a proper moral disposition to help me by his hearty advice and assistance. This gentlemen and disinterested friend is Mr. Hewins, already known in Boston as a distinguished artist. Had I listened to his feelings of modesty, I should not have mentioned him here; but I hope he will readily excuse the liberty I take, for I consider it a duty to myself and to my fellow creatures to give 'a chacum suivant ses oeuvres et son merite.'

REPORT.

GENTLEMEN,

More than five years have elapsed, since a young physician, Mr. Foissac, whose zeal and talent of observation we had frequent opportunities to judge, thought proper to call the attention f the Academy to the phenomena of Animal Magnetism. He reminded it that the Report made in 1784, by the Royal Society of Medicine, had met, among the commissioners intrusted with the care of the experiments, a conscientious and enlightened man who had published a report contradictory to that of his colleagues; — that, since that epoch, magnetism had been the object of new experiments and new researches; and, if the Academy deemed it proper, he proposed to submit to its examination a "*Somnambule*," who seemed fit to throw light upon a question, that many sound minds in France and Germany considered

as far from being resolved, — although, in 1784, the Academy of Sciences and Royal Society of Medicine, had pronounced their judgment against magnetism.

A commission, composed of Messrs. Adelon, Burdin the eldest, Marc, Pariset, and myself, was appointed to make a report upon Mr. Foissac's proposition. This report, presented to the section of medicine at the meeting of the 13th of December, 1825, led to the conclusion that magnetism should be submitted to a new examination. That conclusion gave rise to an animated discussion, which was continued during the meetings of the 10th and 24th January, and the 14th February, 1826. In this last, the commission replied to all the objections brought against the report, — and, on the same day, after a mature examination, in a mode hitherto unknown in matter of science, of an individual scrutiny, the section decided that a special commission should be appointed to examine anew the phenomena of animal magnetism.

This new commission, composed of Messrs. Bourdois, Double, Fouquier, Itard, Gueneau de Mussy, Guersent, Laennec, Leroux, Magendie, Marc and Thillaye, was appointed at the meeting of the 28th of February, 1826. Some time after, Mr. Laennec, having been obliged to leave Paris on account of ill-health, I was designated to sup-

ply his place, and the commission being thus constituted, occupied itself with the fulfilling of the mission conferred upon it.

Its first care, before Laennec's retreat, was to examine the *Somnambule* who had been offered by Mr. Foissac. Various experiments were made upon her in the Academy's room; but, we must acknowledge that our inexperience, our impatience and diffidence, perhaps too ostensibly manifested, allowed us to observe but some physiological phenomena, curious enough, that we shall let you know in another part of our report, but in which we saw none of the faculties, the proofs of which she gave us on other occasions. That *Somnambule*, undoubtedly wearied by our too urging experiments, ceased at that time to be placed at our disposal, and we had to seek in the hospitals the means of pursuing our experiments.

Mr. Pariset, a physician at the Saltpetriere, was better able than anybody else to assist us in our researches; which he showed himself willing to do with an eagerness, the result of which, unfortunately, answered not our expectation. The commission, which founded a great part of its hopes upon the resources that could be furnished to it by that hospital, either in regard to the individuals who should have been submitted to the experiments, or on account of the presence

of Mr. Magendie, who begged to attend to them as one of the commission; the commission, we say, in seeing itself deprived of the means of information hoped to be found there, had recourse to the zeal of each of its members in particular.

Mr. Guersent promised to use his influence at the children's hospital; Mr. Fouquier, in that of the Charity; Messrs. Gueneau and the Reporter at the Hotel Dieu; Mr. Itard, at the nstitution of the *deaf and dumb;* and from that moment, each of us disposed ourselves to make some trials which we pledged ourselves to have witnessed by all the other members of the commission.

Soon after, our labors were arrested by some other and more powerful obstacles. The causes of these obstacles are unknown to us; but, through the effect of a decision of the General Council of the Hospital, taken on the 19th of October, 1825, which prohibited the use of any new remedy which should not have been approved by a Commission appointed by the Council, the magnetical experiments could not be pursued at the Hospital of Charity. Reduced thus to its own resources, to those that the private relation of each of its members could offer to it, the commission made an appeal, to all the physicians known, for having made animal magnetism the special object o their researches. It requested them to permit us to witness their experiments, to allow us to follow,

together with them, the process, and to state the results of them. We declare that we were very much assisted in our progress by many of our brother physicians, and especially by him who first had proposed the question of the examination of magnetism, we mean Dr. Foissac. We do not hesitate to declare that it is the constant and persevering efforts of this physician, and also to the active zeal of Mr. Dupotet, that we are indebted for the greatest part of the materials we have been able to put together to prepare the report which we now present to you.

However, gentlemen, we wish here to state, that your commission has not, in any case, trusted to any other but its own members the care of directing the experiments which it has been witnessing; that no other person than the reporter himself was permitted to note down the results of the experiments tried, and of preparing the *process verbal*, stating the various phenomena that presented themselves at the time, and in the order as they were produced. The commission applied itself to fulfill its duties with the most scrupulous exactitude; and if it does justice to those who assisted it with their benevolent co-operation, it ought to remove even the slightest doubts, that might arise in your minds, that any other persons but themselves have taken even the slightest part in the examination of this question. Itself alone

always conceived the various modes of *experimentation*, traced out the plans, constantly directed the course, followed and wrote down the progress of them. Finally, even in using some auxiliary persons, more or less zealous and enlightened, it always was present, and always gave its own direction to all that was done. Therefore, you will see that it admitted no experiment made out of its own circle, even by members of the Academy.

However great may be the confidence which ought to be established between us by the spirit of confraternity and reciprocal esteem, which animate all of us, we felt that, in the examination of a question the solution of which is so delicate, we should rely upon ourselves only — and that, for your part, you could refer but to our guarantee. Yet, we thought it proper not to strike with that rigorous exclusion, a very curious fact observed by Mr. Cloquet. We admitted it, because it was already, so to speak, the Academy's property ; — the Section of Surgery having occupied itself with it in two of its meetings.

Such a reserve, imposed upon itself by the commission, in the use of the various facts concerning the question that it studied with so much care and impartiality, would give us the right to expect a similar feeling and proceeding, if some persons who should not have witnessed our experiments were going to discuss their authenticity. As we

ask your confidence only as to what we have seen and done, for that very reason we cannot admit that those who had not the same advantages as ourselves to observe the fact, could attack or doubt what we shall say we have observed ; and as, finally, we always distrusted those wonders which were announced to us as to happen, and this feeling constantly overwhelmed us in all our investigations, we think we have some right to require of you, if you do not grant us your entire confidence, not to suggest any doubts upon the moral and physical dispositions with which we always proceeded in the observation of the various phenomena we have witnessed.

Thus, gentlemen, this report which we are far from presenting to you to settle your opinion about animal magnetism, cannot and should not be considered anything else but the collecting and classification of the facts we have observed until this moment; we offer it to you as a proof that we endeavored to justify your confidence; and although regretting that it does not rest upon a greater number of experiments, still we hope that you will receive it with indulgence, and listen to the reading of it with some interest.

We think it, however, a duty to tell you, in advance, that what we saw in our experiments resemble by no means all that the report of 1784 relates of the magnetizers of that time. We nei-

ther admit nor reject the existence of a fluid; we speak neither of the *Baquet*, nor of the rod, of the chain which was established, causing the magnetized individuals to communicate by the hands, nor of the pressures a long time continued, and sometimes so during several hours, upon the hypochondrac region and the abdomen; nor of the singing and instrumental music which accompanied the magnetical operations; nor of the meeting of a great number of persons who had themselves magnetized in presence of a crowd of witnesses; — because our experiments were made in the most perfect calm, the most absolute silence, without any accessary means, never by an immediate contact, and at every time upon a single person only.

We do not mention that which, at the time of Mesmer, was so improperly called crisis, and consisted in convulsions, in laughter sometimes immoderate, in inexhaustible tears, piercing cries, because we never met those various phenomena.

In all these respects, we do not hesitate to say, that there exists a very great difference between the facts observed and judged in 1784, and those collected by us in the work we have the honor of presenting to you; that this difference established between the one and the other a line very distinct of demarcation, and that if reason has cleared away a great part of the former, the spirit of in-

vestigation and observation ought to apply itself in multiplying and appreciating the latter.

It is with animal magnetism, gentlemen, as with a great many operations in nature; viz: it is necessary that certain conditions be united together, in order to produce such and such effects. This is an incontestible truth, — which, did it need proofs to be established, would find itself confirmed by what happens in various physical phenomena. Thus, without dryness of the atmosphere, you can but in a feeble manner, develop electricity; without heat, you never can obtain the combination of lead and pewter, which is the common solder; without the light of the sun, you will not see the mixture of parts equal in volume of hydrogen and *chlore*, spontaneously inflaming themselves, &c. &c. Whether these conditions be external or physical, as those we have just been mentioning; whether they be intimate or moral, as those which are pretended, by Messrs. Deleuze, Puysegur, &c., to be indispensable to the development of the magnetical phenomena, it is sufficient that they exist, and are required by them to have led the *commission* to consider it a duty to endeavor to meet them together, and submit itself to them. Yet we ought not and would not have thrown off that anxious curiosity which at the same time induced us to vary our experiments, and try to put at fault,

the practices and promises of certain magnetizers. In those two respects, we thought it proper to free ourselves of the obligation imposed by them to have a strong faith, to be moved only by the desire of doing good; we sought merely to be accurate, curious and diffident observers.

Neither did we deem it convenient to try to account for those conditions; it would have been a question of mere controversy, and for the solution of which we should have been no more satisfied than when it matters to explain the conditions owing to which physiological phenomena are executed, and how the action of medicaments takes place. These are questions of the same kind, and upon which the science has not yet pronounced its judgment.

In all the experiments made by us, the strictest silence has always been kept, because we thought that, to the development of so nice phenomena, the attention, both of the magnetizer and magnetized person, would be diverted by anything strange; we would not, moreover, deserve the reproach of having put obstacles, by talking or other sort of diversion, to the success of the experiments; and we always took care that the expression of our countenances should neither trouble the magnetizer, nor suggest doubt to the magnetized; — our position, we are pleased to repeat, constantly was that of curious and impartial observers. Those

conditions, many of which had been recommended in the works of the respectable Mr. Deleuze, having been well established, the following is what we saw.

The person who was to be magnetized was placed in the sitting position, on a convenient sofa, or upon a chair. The magnetizer, sitting on a little higher seat, before his face, and at about a foot distant, recollects himself a few moments, during which he holds the thumb of the patient, and remains in this position until he feels that the same degree of heat is established between the thumbs of that person and his own. Then he draws off his hands in turning them outwards, and places them upon the shoulders for nearly one minute. Afterwards he carries them down slowly, by a sort of friction, very light, along the arms, down to the extremities of the fingers, — he begins again the same motion five or six times; it is what magnetizers call *passes*. Then he passes his hands over the head, keeps them there a few moments, brings them down in passing before the face, at the distance of one or two inches, to the epigastrium, where he stops again, either in bearing upon that region, or without touching it with his fingers. And he thus comes down slowly along the body, to the feet. These *passes*, or motions, are repeated during the greatest part of the course, and when he wishes to finish it, he carries them

even beyond the extremities of the hands and feet, in shaking his fingers at each time. Finally, he performs before the face and the chest some transversal motions, at the distance of three or four inches, in presenting his two hands, put near one another, and in removing them abruptly. At other times, he brings near together the fingers of each hand, and presents them at three or four inches distant from the head or the stomach, in leaving them in that position for one or two minutes; then, alternately drawing them off, and bringing them near those parts, with more or less quickness, he imitates the motion that we naturally execute when we wish to get rid of a liquid which met the extremity of our fingers.

These various modes were followed in all our experiments, without adhering to one rather than to the other, —often using but one, sometimes two; and we never were directed in the choice that we made of them, by the idea that one mode would produce a quicker and better marked effect than another. The commission will not follow in the enumeration of the facts it has observed; the order of times when each of them was produced; we thought it more convenient, and above all, more rational, to present them to you, classed according to the degree, more or less decided, of the magnetical action that it recognized in each of them.

Therefore, we have established four divisions, as follows.

1. The effects of magnetism are not manifested upon healthy persons, and certain other patients.

2. They are but feebly manifested upon some others.

3. They are often the product of *ennui*, monotony and imagination.

4. Finally, they have been seen developed independently of these last causes, very probably by the effect of Magnetism alone.*

*Note of the Translator. Out of twenty-six individuals mentioned in those various classes, as having been submitted to the action of Animal Magnetism, there are but two who felt nothing at all ; three others exhibited the magnetical phenomena in a pretty high degree ; but those effects were attributed to other causes, such as tiresomeness and imagination. Six felt the action more or less independently of any other cause ; finally, fifteen showed themselves affected by the magnetical action in a most evident manner.

SECTION I.

*Experiments wherein no effect was manifested.**

The reporter of the commission repeatedly submitted himself to magnetical experiments. At one time, in particular, enjoying then perfect health, he was steady enough to keep himself sitting during three quarters of an hour, in the same position, his eyes closed, in a complete immobility, and he declares he never felt any effect, although the tiresomeness of the position and the absolute silence that he had begged of the assistants might have been capable of producing sleep. Mr. Gueneau de Mussy underwent the same trial with a similar result. At another day, when the reporter was tormented with violent and very tenacious rheumatic pains, he tried magnetism many times, and never obtained from that means the least melioration, although certainly the

*Note of the Translator. In this first class, there are but four facts related, of which two (the last ones) already present a commencement of the magnetical action. Is it not likely that the action would have been better marked, if the operation had lasted longer? Very seldom indeed, are the magnetical phenomena developed in ten minutes, at the first sitting.

intensity of his sufferings caused him to desire most earnestly to have them removed, or at least mitigated.

The 11th of November, 1826, our respectable colleague, Mr. Bourdois, had felt for two months an illness which required from his partner a particular attention in his usual manner of living. This trouble, said he, was not his normal state; he knew the cause of it, and could determine its points of departure.

In these conditions, which, according to Mr. Dupotet's assertion, were favorable to the development of the magnetical phenomena, Mr. Bourdois was magnetized by the same Mr. Dupotet, in presence of Messrs. Itard, Marc, Double, Gueneau and the reporter. The experiment began at thirty-three minutes after three in the afternoon; the pulse then throbbed eighty-four times, a number which, according to Messrs. Double and Bourdois, is that of the normal state. At twenty-nine minutes to four the operation ceased, and Mr. Bourdois felt nothing at all. But we noted that the pulse had come down to seventy-two pulsations, that is twelve less than before the experiment.

In the same meeting, our colleague Mr. Itard, affected for eight years with a chronic rheumatism, the seat of which was then in the stomach, and laboring at this same moment under an unusual crisis attached to his complaint, (these are his own

expressions) was magnetized by Mr. Dupotet. At ten minutes before four, his pulse beat sixty times; at three minutes to four he shut his eyes, and at three minutes past four he ceased to be magnetized.

He tells us that, while he had his eyes opened, he thought he had felt the impression of the passage of the fingers upon his organs, as though they had been struck with a sudden blowing of warm air; but that after shutting them up, he had no longer felt the same sensation; he adds that at the end of five minutes he felt a pain which occupied all the fore part of his head and the bottom of his orbit, with a sensation of dryness of the tongue, although, when observed by us, it was in fact very wet. Finally, he says, that the pain which he felt before the experiment, and had announced as being dependent of the affection he complained of, was removed, but that it was generally very moveable. We noted that the pulse had risen to seventy-four pulsations, that is fourteen more than before the experiment.

We certainly might relate to you some other observations, in which magnetism had no sort of action; but besides the inconvenience of quoting facts without result, we thought that it would be sufficient to you to know that three members of the commission had submitted themselves to experiments, to be more completely convinced of the truth of our investigations.

SECTION II.

Effects slightly marked.

You could not have failed to notice, gentlemen, that the last fact of the preceeding series presented a commencement of magnetical action; we placed it at the end of that section to serve as a link to those that are to follow.

Mr. Magnien, a physician, fifty-four years old, living in St. Dennis street, No. 202, walked with much difficulty, in consequence of a fall he had experienced several years before on the left knee, and probably also owing to an aneurism of the heart, under which he sunk in the month of September last, (1831) was magnetized by the reporter, August 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 1826. The number of pulsations was less at the end of five successive operations than at the beginning. Thus it lowered from ninety-six to ninety, from ninety-six to eighty-six, from seventy-seven to seventy-one, from eighty-two to seventy-nine, from eighty to seventy-eight; and at the sixth experiment this number did not vary; it still remained at eighty-three pulsations. His respirations have been always equal, except in one case, in which they rose from twenty to twenty-six. Mr. Magnien constantly felt a sensation of coolness in all the parts towards which the magnetizer directed and

kept a long time his fingers in the same position. This phenomena did not miss a single time.

Mr. Roux, our colleague, who complained of a chronic affection of the stomach, was magnetized six times by Mr. Foissac, on the 28th and 29th of September, and October 1, 3, 5, 7, 1827. He felt at first a sensible diminution in the number of the respirations and of the beating of the pulse; afterwards, some heat in his stomach, a great coolness in his face, the sensation of evaporization of ether, even when no *passe* was executed before him, and a strong inclination to sleep.

Anna Burdin, aged five and twenty years, residing in rue du Paon, No. 15, was magnetized the 17th, 20th and 21st of July, 1826, at the Hotel Dieu, by Mr. Fossac, in presence of the reporter. This woman complained of a cephallagy and a nevralgy, the seat of which was in the left eye. During the three magnetical sittings which were devoted to her, we have seen the respirations rise from sixteen to thirty-nine, from fourteen to twenty, and the pulsations from sixty-nine to seventy-nine, from sixty to sixty-eight, from seventy-five to ninety-five. She was very drowsy, and slept a few minutes; felt some amelioration in her cephaltgea, but no change was operated in the orbiary nevralgy.

Theresa Ferlin was magnetized the 22d, 23d, 24th, 29th, and 30th of July, 1826. She had

entered the hospital, complaining of pains in the abdomen and the lombar region. During the five magnetical sittings devoted to her, we saw the respirations rising from fifteen to seventeen, from eighteen to nineteen, from twenty to twenty-five, and falling from twenty-seven to twenty-four; and the pulsations ascending from 118 to 125, from 100 to 120, from 100 to 113, from 95 to 98, from 117 to 120. We noticed that this woman seemed to be afraid of the motions of the fingers and hands of the magnetizer; that she avoided them in drawing back her head; that she followed them not to lose sight of them, as though she dreaded some evil from them. She was visibly tormented during the four sittings. We noticed also, in her long and frequent sighs, sometimes interrupted, the wrinkling and lowering of the eyelids, the rubbing of the nose, a pretty frequent deglutition of saliva, a motion which, in other magnetized persons, constantly preceeded sleep, and finally the cure of the pain which existed in the lombar region.

The commission, in putting together these various facts, wishes only to call your attention to the series of the physiological phenomena which presented themselves in the two last ones. It cannot attach any importance to that particular amelioration effected in the symptoms of the very insignificant diseases of these two women. If

those diseases existed, time and rest could have removed them; if they did not exist, as it too often happens, the feigning must have ceased without magnetism.

Thus, gentlemen, we have presented them to you only as the first elements of the magnetical action, which you will see increasing in proportion as we shall overrun the other divisions that we have established.

SECTION III.

Effects produced by Tiresomeness, Monotony and Imagination.

The commission had several opportunities to notice that the monotony of the gestures, the strict silence kept during the experiments, the wearisomeness occasioned by a position constantly the same, have produced sleep in several individuals who, however, were not submitted to the magnetical influence, but who found themselves in the same physical and moral circumstances in which they had previously been put to sleep. In these cases it was impossible not to acknowledge the power of imagination, a power owing to which those individuals believing themselves magnetized, felt the same effects as if they had been so. We

shall particularly relate the following observations.

Mlle. Lemaitre, twenty-five years old, was affected for three years with an amaurosis. When she entered the Hotel Dieu, she was magnetized on the 7th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, and 22d of July, 1826. We shall not repeat here the various phenomena which marked the beginning of the magnetical action, and which we have declared in the preceeding sections, such as the wrinkling and lowering of the eyelids, the rubbing of the eyes as to get rid of a troublesome sensation, the sudden sloping of the head and the deglutition of the saliva. These are, as we have already said, symptoms that we constantly noticed, and of which we shall speak no more. We shall say only, that we noticed a commencement of somnolence at the end of the third sitting; that this somnolence continued increasing until the eleventh; that, from the fourth course of operation, conclusive motions of the muscles of the neck and face, of the hands, the shoulders, manifested themselves; that, at the end of each sitting, we found the pulse more accelerated than at the beginning. But that which ought especially to deserve your attention, is that after having been magnetized ten times and during the eight last ones, seeming more and more sensible to the action of magnetism, Mr. Dupotet, her

magnetiser, sate, by the invitation of the reporter, at the eleventh course of operation, on the 20th of July, behind her, without making any gesture, without any intention to magnetize her, and she felt a somnolance still stronger marked than the preceeding days, but less agitation and convulsive motions. Moreover, no amelioration was manifested in the state of her sight since the commencement of the experiments; and she left the hospital as she had entered.

Louisa Ganot, a domestic, living in rue du Batoir, No. 19, entered the Hotel Dieu, on the 18th of July, 1826, ward 1t, Roch No. 17, in order to be treated there for a leucorrhea. She was magnetized, by Mr. Dupotet, the 21st, 22d, 23d, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, and 28th of July, 1826. She was liable, as she said, to fits of nerves; indeed, convulsive motions, similar to those which characterize histeria, constantly manifested themselves during the magnetical operations, such as moaning cries, the stiffness and bending of the superior limbs, the sudden projection of the hand towards the epigastrum, the bending over of all the body in such a manner as to form an arch, the concavity of which was in the back, and finally a few minutes of sleep. At the sixth sitting, Mr. Dupotet placed himself before her face, at two feet distant, without touching her, without performing a single gesture, but with the firm intention of mag-

netizing her; the agitation, the convulsive motions, long and interrupted sighs, the stiffness of the arms were not so long in manifesting themselves, as in the preceeding sittings. The next day (27) the patient being seated on the large arm-chair which had been used in the preceeding experiments, we placed Mr. Dupotet behind her; he contents himself with directing the extremity of his fingers against the middle part of her back; the hind part of the arm-chair was, of course, interposed between the magnetized person and the magnetizer; soon, the convulsive motions of the preceeding days presented themselves still more violently, and often she turns back her head. She says, after being awakened, that she executed that motion because it seemed to her that she was tormented by something acting behind her. Finally, after having observed, on the 26th and 27th of July, the development of the magnetical phenomena, produced in one case only by intention, and in the other by very plain gestures (the directing of the fingers) executed behind, and the patient being not aware of it, we wished to ascertain whether the same phenomena could be produced again in the magnetizer's absence, and by the sole effect of imagination; as actually happened on the 28th of July.

Mlle. Ganot was placed in all the circumstances of the preceding trials; viz.: the same

hour in the day, same apartment, same silence, same arm-chair, the same assistant, same preparation; everything, in a word, was exactly similar as on the preceeding days, one thing only was wanting, the magnetizer who had remained at his house. The same convulsive motions manifested themselves, but with a little less quickness and violence, although with the same character.

A man twenty-seven years of age, subject since the age of fifteen to epeleptic fits, was magnetized fifteen times at the Hotel Dieu, from the 27th of June to the 17th of July, 1826, by ther eporter of the commission. Sleep began to show itself at the fourth sitting, on the 1st of July; it was still sounder at the fifth, the 2d of the same month; in the following it was pretty slight, and was easily interrupted, either by slight noise, or by questions; the reporter magnetized him at the thirteenth and fourteenth, of the same month, by placing himself behind the arm-chair in which this man was sitting; at the fifteenth sitting, which took place on the 17th of July, we placed him, as it had been done for Mlle. Ganot, in the same circumstances in which he had found himself since the beginning of the experiments; the reporter puts himself behind his arm-chair, and the same phenomena of somnolence were manifested, although he had not magnetized him. We were necessarily led

to conclude, from that series of experiments, that these two women and that man felt the same effects, both when magnetized and when they believed they were so; that, consequently, imagination was sufficient to produce in them some phenomena, that with some little attention or pre-occupations of the mind, we might have attributed to magnetism.

But we hasten to declare that there are many other cases, as severely and carefully observed, in which it would be difficult not to admit magnetism as the cause of those phenomena. We place them in the fourth class.

SECTION IV.

Effects very probably derived from Magnetism alone.

A child twenty-eight months of age, affected as his father, of whom we shall speak below, with epileptic fits, was magnetized at Mr. Bourdois', by Mr. Foissac, on the 6th of October, 1827. Almost immdiately after the passes had begun, the child rubbed his eyes, bent his head on one side, leant it upon one of the cushions of the sofa upon which he was sitting, gaped, agitated himself, scratched his head and ears, appeared to struggle against

sleep, which seemed to pervade him, and soon rose in murmuring; he was seized with the need of making water, and after satisfying it, he was magnetized again a few moments; but as this time the somnolence was not so much marked, we ceased the experiment.

We put near this fact, that of a deaf and dumb person of eighteen years old, liable for a long time to very frequent fits of epilepsy, and on whom Mr. Itard wished to have magnetism tried. This young man was magnetized fifteen times, by Mr. Foissac; we shall not only say that the epileptical fits were suspended during the sitting, and that they re appeared only at the end of eight months, a delay without example in the history of his disease; but also that the appreciable phenomena felt by this young man during the experiments, were the heaviness of the eye-lids, a general numbness, the need of sleep, and even sometimes some vertigo.

An action still better marked was observed upon a member of the commission. Mr. Itard, on the 11th of November 1826, had submitted himself, as we have said, and had felt no effect. Being magnetized by Mr. Dupotet, on the 27th of October, 1827, he felt some drowsiness without sleep, a sensible excitement of the nerves of the face, some convulsive motions in the nostrils, the muscles of the face and the jaws, an afflux in his

mouth of a saliva with a metallic taste, a sensation similar to that which he had felt by galvanism. The two first sittings caused a cephalagy which lasted several hours; and in the same time the usual pains subsided very much. A year after, Mr. Itard, who had severe pains in his head was magnetized eighteen times by Mr. Foissac. Magnetism provoked almost constantly an afflux of saliva, and twice with a metallac taste; but few motions and muscular contractions were observed, except some sudden agitations in the tendons of the muscles of the fore-arms and legs. Mr. Itard told us that his cephalalgy had ceased at each time after a sitting of twelve and fifteen minutes; that it was entirely removed at the ninth, when it was brought on again, by an interruption of three days in the magnetical treatment, and removed again by the same means; he felt, during the experiment, the sensation of a general comfort, a disposition to pleasant sleep, some somnolence accompanied with vague and agreeable dreaming; his complaint received, as previously, a notable amelioration, which lasted but a short while after the cessation of magnetism.

These three observations appeared to your commission altogether worthy of notice. The two individuals who were the subjects of the two first experiments — the one, a child of twenty-eight months old; the other, the deaf and dumb person—

were perfectly ignorant of what was done to them : one of them is not yet able to know it, and the other never had the least idea of what is relating to magnetism ; and yet, both are sensible to its action ; and certainly we cannot consider in either of them that sensibility as an effect of imagination : could we do it with more propriety and reason in the observation we have related concerning Mr. Itard ?

It is not upon men of our age and always in guard against the errors both of our mind and senses, that imagination, such as we consider it here, may exercise its influence. It is, at this advanced period of life, lightened by reason, and free of those deceiving charms which so easily seduce youth; it keeps itself awake ; and diffidence, rather than confidence, presides over the various operations of our mind. These conditions happily found themselves united in our colleague ; and the academy know him too well not to admit that he has really felt what he says he has felt ; his veracity has been the same, both on the 11th of November, 1826, when he declared he had felt nothing, and on the 27th of Oct., 1827, when he affirmed before us that he was sensible to the action of magnetism.

The somnolence observed in the three facts we have just related, seemed to us the transition of the wakeful state, to that which is called "*the magnetical sleep or somnambulism,*" words

that the commission thought improper, as leading to wrong ideas, but which, in the impossibility of altering them, it was obliged to adopt.

When the individual submitted to the magnetical action, is in somnambulism, magnetizers assure us that he ordinarily hears but the person who magnetizes him, and those who are put to communication with him through the means of an immediate contact. According to their opinion, all, or almost all, the external senses of the somnambule are suspended, and yet he feels sensations. They also pretend that an "internal sense, a sort of instinct," is excited within him, which enlightens him, both on his own preservation and on that of those who are in relation with him. During all the time of the state of somnambulism, the somnambule is, say they, submitted to the influence of the magnetizer and seems to obey him with an unlimited docility, even when his will, strongly moved inwardly, is manifested neither by a gesture nor by a word.

The magnetized person, says the illustrious Bailly, in his report to the Royal Academy of Sciences, page 7, is vainly plunged in an apparent drowsiness; the voice of the magnetizer, his look, a sign from him, draws them off from that state. It is impossible not to acknowledge, by these constant effects, a great power that agitates the patient, overwhelms him, and of which the magnetizer alone seems to dispose.

This singular phenomena, gentlemen, your commission thought a subject so much more worthy of its attention and investigation, that, although Bailly seemed to have perceived it, it was not however known when magnetism was submitted to the examination of the king's commissaries, in 1774; and that, besides, it was particularly for the purpose of studying it, that Mr. Foissac had, if I may so speak, brought to light again the question of magnetism. Indeed, Mr. de Puysegur's memoirs, in which the phenomena of somnambulism were, for the first time, exposed, had been issued only after the report o the commission, at the end of 1784 and in 1785.

In a subject which could be so easily used as a means of charlatanism, and seemed to us so different from all that was hitherto known, your commission must have been very careful and severe about the kind of proofs which were devised and admitted to verify this phenomena, and at the same time to be contiuually on their guard against illusion and deception, of which they might have feared to be the dupes.

The commission beg to call your attention to the following observations, which it has disposed in such a manner as to offer you a progression, always increasing, of the phenomena of somnambulism. It is the means to make them more and more evident to you.

Mlle. Louise Delaplane, sixteen years old, living in rue Terechape, 9, affected with an obstruction, accompanied with pains, tension and swelling of the lower region of the abdomen, entered the hospital on the 13th of June 1826. Some leeches, baths, and in general a proper treatment, produced no relief; she was magnetized by Mr. Dupotet, on the 22d, 23d, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th and 28th of June, 1826. She was put to sleep, in the first sitting, at the end of eight minutes. We speak to her, she answers not; we cast on the floor before her a tin blower, she remains in a complete immobility,—a glass flask is broken with violence, and she awakes suddenly. At the second sitting, she answered by affirmative and negative signs of the head to the question addressed to her. At the third, she made us understand that she would be able in two or three days to speak and indicate the nature and seat of her disease; she was so severely pinched as to produce an ecchimosis; she gave no sign of sensibility. A flask filled with ammoniac was uncorked under her nose, she was insensible at the first respiration; at the second, she carried her hand to her nose. After being awaked, she complained of the pain she felt in the pinched and ecchymosed part. The same flask of ammoniac is presented to her, and at the first respiration she abruptly drew back her head.

The relations of this girl resolved to take her away from the hospital on the 30th of the same month, because they had heard of her being magnetized; however, she was magnetized there four times more. In all of these trials she never spoke, and answered only by signs the various questions addressed to her. We add that, having been insensible to the touch of a pen introduced into her nose carried over her lips and nostrils, also to the noise of a plank suddenly cast upon a table, she was awakened by the noise of a copper basin thrown upon the floor, and by the noise of a bag of dollars, that, at another day, we emptied from a high place into the same basin.

At another time, on the 9th of December, 1826, Mr. Dupotet magnetized before the commission a cart driver at Charonne, whom he had magnetized for the last time, two or three years ago. At the end of eight minutes, being repeatedly asked whether he slept, he suddenly made an affirmative sign with his head, — several questions remained without answers. As he seemed suffering, we asked him what pained him, he indicated his chest with his hand, we asked him again what is that part, he answered, it is the liver, and still indicated the chest. Mr. Guersent pinched him violently in his left wrist, and he felt no pain. We opened his eye-lid which yielded but with

difficulty to the attempt, and we saw the globe of the eye turned up convulsively towards the upper part of the orbit, and his pupil contracted in a notable manner.

The commission saw, in the two observations it has just brought near together the first outline of somnambulism, that faculty through which magnetizers pretend that, during the sleep of the external organs of senses, an internal sense is developed in the magnetized person, which enables him to do reasonable external acts. In each of the cases above related, the commission saw, indeed either answers by signs or by phrases to questions asked, or promises (it is true always mistaken) of events that were to happen, but yet the first marks of a beginning of intelligence. The three following observations will prove to you with what difference the promises of certain pretended somnambules ought to be received.

Mlle. Josephine Martineau, nineteen years old, living in rue St. Nicholas, No. 37, affected for three months with a chronic gartritis when she entered the Hotel Dieu, on the 5th of August, 1826. She was magnetized by Mr. Dupotet, in presence of the reporter, fifteen times in succession, from the 7th to the 21st of the same month, twice between four and five o'clock in the evening, and thirteen times, from six to seven in the morning. She

commenced sleeping at the second sitting, and in the fourth she answered the questions asked of her. We shall not repeat to you that, at the end of each sitting, her pulse was more frequent than at the beginning, that she preserved no remembrance of what had taken place during her sleep. These are common phenomena, which had previously been very well verified in other magnetized persons. It matters here of somnambulism only; and it is that phenomena that we endeavored to observe on Mlle. Martineau. In her sleep, she said that she did not see the assistants, but that she heard them,— and nobody was speaking. Being asked about what she meant, she answered that she heard them when they made a noise; she said that she should not recover until she should be purged. She designated for that purgative three ounces of manna and some English pills to be taken two hours after the manna. The two following days the reporter gives no manna, but instead of it four pills made with the crumbs of bread which he administered in two days, and they operated as real purgatives four times during the two days. She said once that she should awake after five minutes, at another time after ten minutes of sleep; and she awoke only after seventeen and sixteen minutes. She announced that at such a day she would give us some details about the

nature of her complaint. That day arrived, and she said nothing. Finally, at every time she was found in fault.*

M. De Geslin, living in rue de Grenelle St. Honore, No. 37, wrote to the commission, on the 8th of July, 1826, that he had under his hand a somnambule, lodging in the same house, Mme. Couturier, thirty years old, a milliner, who, among other faculties, possessed that of reading her magnetizer's thoughts, and of executing the orders that he mentally transmitted to her.

Mr. de Geslin's proposition was too important not to be immediately accepted. Mr. Gueneau and the reporter repaired to his house, at this invitation. This gentleman renewed there the assurances he had given us in his letter of the surprising faculties of his somnambule, and after having put her to sleep by the usual proceedings, he invited us to let him know what we wished to have executed by her.

One of us, the reporter, sate before the writing desk to take note of all that was going to take place; and the other, Mr. Gueneau wrote upon a

* This fact proves the truth of an observation made by well-informed and experienced magnetizers, that somnombules are sometimes full of vanity. They are generally very *susceptible* about their lucidity, and often pretend that they know and see better than they really do. Yet, although fulfilling not their promises, they may be really in the state of somnambulism.—[NOTE OF THE TRANSLATOR.]

bit of paper the following words, "Go and sit on the cricket which stands in front of the piano." Mr. de Geslin penetrated himself with that will, and told the somnambule to execute what he mentally commanded her. She rose from her seat, and sitting herself before the clock, she said, it is twenty minutes past nine.* Mr. Geslin told her, that was not what he asked of her; then she entered the next apartment; she was told that she was mistaken again; she then resumed her seat. We wished that she should scratch her head; she stretched her right hand, but without executing the motion. We wished that she should go and sit at the piano, and she went to a window six feet distant from the piano. The magnetizer complained that she did not execute what he imposed upon her by thought; she rose and took another chair. We asked, that when Mr. Geslin should raise his arm, the somnambule may raise hers, and hold it suspended so until the magnetizer brings his down. She raised her hand, which remained immovable, and was not brought down again until five minutes after the magnetizer's; we presented to her the back side of a watch, and she said that it was thirty-five minutes past nine o'clock, while it was but seven o'clock. She said that there were three needles, and there were but

*The reporter don't say whether she said right or not.

two. A watch with three needles is substituted for the other, and she said that there were two, that it was forty minutes past nine, whereas it was but twenty-five minutes past nine by the watch. She was put in contact with Mr, Guenau, and told him, concerning his health, things altogether erroneous and evidently contradicting what our colleague had written about it before lending himself to the experiment. Finally, that woman kept none of the promises which had been made to us, and we were thereby authorized to believe that Mr. de Geslin had not taken all the necessary cares not to be led into error, and that was the reason of his belief in the extraordinary faculties he had attributed to the somnambule.*

Here are, then, three cases very well established; and we might relate some more, in which there

*As the third observation contains several particulars which might sound badly to the delicate ears of our female readers, we think it more proper to relate it in French, such as it is in the original. "Mr. Chapelain, docteureu medecine, demeuraut, Cour Fatve, No. 3, informa la commission, le 14 Mars, 1828, qulune femmie, &c.

In the foregoing cases, it is evident that the subjects experimented upon were really in the state of somnambulism, but had not yet reached a sufficient degree of lucidity to foretell, without mistake, what was to happen. Miscarried by their vanity and an exaggerated confidence in their faculties, they gave as positive and certain, what was in fact but some slight and obscure impressions of the instinct or inward sense. — [NOTE OF THE TRANSLATOR.]

was evidently either error or attempt of deception upon the part of the somnambule, both in what they said they heard, or in what they promised to do — or, finally, in what they announced as about to happen.

In such a position, and eagerly desirous to throw light on the question, we thought it essential to the interest of the investigations we were appointed to make, and in order to shelter ourselves from the deceptions of charlatanism, to ascertain whether there was any token that could indicate the real existence of somnambulism, that is to say, whether the magnetized individual being put to sleep was (allow us the expression) more than asleep, whether he had reached the state of somnambulism.

Mr. Dupotet, of whom mention has already been made several times, proposed, on the 4th of November, 1826, to the commission to make it witness some experiments in which he would show, in all its evidence, the reality of magnetical somnambulism. He pledged himself (and we have his promise signed by himself) to produce at will, and out of the sight of the individuals put by him in a state of somnambulism, some convulsive motions in a part whatever of their body, merely by directing his fingers towards that part. He considered those convulsions as a certain token of the existence of somnambulism. The commission availed itself of the presence of B. Chamet to make

upon him the experiments necessary to ascertain the fact and resolve the question. Therefore, Mr. Dupotet, having put him in a state of somnambulism, stretched a finger pointedly towards his; nay, he approached them with a metallic stem, and no convulsive effect was produced. One finger of the magnetizer's was directed again towards those of the magnetized; we saw in the fingers, index, and medius of both hands, a slight motion similar to the convulsion caused by the galvanic pile. Six minutes after, the finger of the magnetizer being directed toward the left wrist, determined in that part a complete motion of convulsion. Then the magnetizer announced that in five minutes everything he could wish for would be obtained from that man. At that moment, Mr. Marc, standing behind the somnambule, indicated that the magnetizer should try to act upon the right fore finger; himself directed his own toward that part, but it was the left one, and the leg of the same side which entered into convulsion. At another time, one of us directed his fingers towards the toes — no effect was produced; some anterior *passes* were executed. Messrs. Bourdois, Guersent, Gueneau de Mussy, directed successively their fingers toward those of the magnetized, which were contracted at their approach. A short while after, we perceived some motions in the left hand, toward which, however, no finger had been directed. Finally,

the experiments were suspended to ascertain whether the convulsive motions would not take place when no magnetical action should be exercised, and those motions renewed themselves, but in a feeble manner.

The commission concluded from this, that the approach of the magnetizer's fingers was not necessary to produce convulsions, although Mr. Dupotet said that after they had begun to take place, they could be continued of themselves.

Mlle. Lemaitre, of whom we have already spoken, when we mentioned the influence of imagination on the production of magnetical phenomena, presented also that convulsive mobility; but now, these motions, pretty nearly like those that are felt by the approach of an electrical point, were caused in part by the approach of fingers. Then without this last condition, we saw them happening, more or less, after the attempt made on purpose to obtain them. Several times, this phenomenon manifested itself in the course of one sitting; whereas it showed itself not at all at another. Finally, the approach of the fingers toward a part, was sometimes followed with convulsions in a different part of the body.

A new example of this phenomena, is that which we observed upon Mr. Chalet, a consul of France at Odessa. Mr. Dupotet magnetized him in our presence, on the 19th of November, 1826; he

directed his fingers towards his left ear, and immediately we perceived in the hair placed behind the ear, a motion which was attributed to the contraction of the muscles of that region. Some passes with a single hand were repeated, without, however, directing the finger towards the ear, and we perceived a general and sudden motion of ascension in the ear. A finger was afterwards directed towards the same ear, and produced no effect on it.

It was especially upon Mr. Petit, thirty-two years old, an instructor at Athis, that the convulsive motions were determined with the most precision by the approach of the magnetizer's fingers. Mr. Dupotet presented him to the commission, on the 10th of August, 1826, in announcing to it that this man was very susceptible of entering into somnambulism, and that while in that state, he (Mr. Dupotet) could determine at will, without expressing it by word, in such parts as would be designated by the commission, some apparent convulsive motions, by the sole approach of his fingers. Mr. Petit was very soon put to sleep, and then the commission, in order to prevent all suspicion of intelligence, handed to Mr. Dupotet a note, written in silence, at the very moment in which it designated the part it wished to see convulsed; he placed himself, afterwards, behind the magnetized individual, and directed his finger, in the first place, towards the left thigh, afterwards towards the

left elbow, and finally towards the head. These three parts were almost instantaneously seized with convulsive motions. Mr. Dupotet directed his left leg towards that of the magnetized; this one agitated itself so much that he came very near falling over. Mr. Dupotet directed his foot toward the right elbow, and that elbow was convulsed; afterwards, he brought his foot towards the left elbow and hand, and violent convulsive motions were developed in all the superior limbs. One of the commission, Mr. Marc, with the intention of preventing, still more, all kind of deception, put a handkerchief around his eyes; and the preceeding experiments were repeated with but a slight difference in the result. Agreeably to the signs and instantaneous indications of several among us, Mr. Dupotet directed his fingers toward the left hand; at its approach, both hands agitated themselves. We wished to see the action exercised on the two inferior limbs at once. At first, the magnetizer's fingers were approached without result; but soon after, the somnambule agitated his hands, shrunk back, and shook his feet. A few moments after, the finger having been brought near the hand caused it to withdraw itself, and produced a general agitation. Messrs. Thillaye and Marc directed their fingers on various parts of the body, and provoked some convulsive motions. Thus Mr. Petit always had, by the approach of

the fingers, convulsive motions, whether a blind was put upon his eyes; or not and those motions were still more strongly produced when a metallic stem, such as a key or a branch of spectacles was directed towards the parts submitted to the experiments. But, as for the result, the commission — although it has witnessed several cases in which that contractile faculty was put into action by the approach either of the fingers or of the metallic stems, needs more facts to appreciate that phenomenon, on the constancy and value of which it does not believe itself sufficiently enlightened to pronounce its opinion.

Having, then, no other means to ascertain the truth, than in referring to our anxious watchfulness, we pursued our investigations and multiplied our observations with still more care, attention and diffidence than ever.

You recollect, perhaps, gentlemen, the experiments which were made in 1820, at the Hotel Dieu, in presence of a great number of physicians, among whom were found several members of this academy, and under the eyes of the reporter, who alone conceived the plan of them, directed every particular, and noted them down, minute after minute, in a process-verbal signed by each of the assistants. Perhaps we should have omitted to mention them here, were it not that a particular circumstance imposes upon us the duty. Amidst

the discussions, which the proposition to submit animal magnetism to a new examination, awakened in the academy, a member*, who, however, did not deny the reality of the magnetical phenomena, had said that while magnetizers proclaimed Mlle. Sampson's cure, she begged of him to be admitted again into the hospital, in which, he added, she had died in consequence of an organical lesion that the men of the art had judged incurable. And yet, this very same Mlle. Samson reappeared "*six years after her pretended death*," and your commission having been convoked on the 29th of November, 1826, to make experiments upon her, wished first to ascertain whether the person submitted by Mr. Dupotet, the good faith and sincerity of whom was moreover perfectly well known to it, really was the same as that who six years previous had been magnetized at the *Hotel Dieu;* Messrs. Bricheteau and Patissier, who had witnessed those first experiments, were complaisant enough to comply with the invitation of the commission, and together with the reporter, they testified and signed a declaration that it was really the same person who had been the subject of the experiments made at the Hotel Dieu, in 1820, and that they perceived no other alteration in her than that which

* Mr. Recamier.

announced a *remarkable improvement in health.* The identity being thus established, Mlle. *Samson* was magnetized by Mr. Dupotet in presence of the commission. The *passes* had barely commenced, when Mlle. Samson moved on her arm-chair, complained, and coughed with a rough voice, that recalled, to Messrs. Patissier, Bricheteau and the reporter, the same sound of voice which had struck them in 1820, and which, at that time as well as in the present moment, was, according to their opinion, a beginning of the magnetical action. Soon after, she struck the floor with her foot, leant her head upon her right hand, and seemed to them quietly asleep. We lifted up her eye-lids, and we saw, as we had in 1820, her eye-balls convulsively turned upwards. Several questions were asked her, but remained without answers. Some others having been addressed to her, she made gestures of impatience, and answered in a tone of bad humor, that we ought not to torment her. Finally, without previously mentioning it to any one, the reporter threw on the floor, violently, a table and stick of wood he had placed thereon. Some of the assistants cried out with fear; Mlle. Samson alone heard nothing, made no motion of any sort, and continued sleeping most soundly. We awaked her four minutes after, in rubbing her eyes with the thumbs in a circular manner. Then the same stick of wood

was suddenly cast on the floor; the noise caused the magnetized to start from her chair; and she complained very much of the sensation of fear we had just caused to her, whereas, six minutes before, she had been insensible to a much greater noise.

You have all heard of a fact which attracted, very much at the time it took place, the attention of the surgical section of the academy, and which had been communicated at the meeting of the 16th of April, 1829, by Mr. Jule Cloquet. The commission thought it proper to relate it here as one of the most indisputable proofs of the force of the magnetical sleep.

Mme. Plantain, fifty-four years of age, residing No. 151, St. Dennis street, consulted Mr. Cloquet on the 8th of April, 1829, for an ulcerated cancer which she bore on the right breast for many years, and which was complicated with a considerable swelling and obstruction of the corresponding axillary ganglions. Mr. Chapelain, the physician of that lady, and who magnetized her some months since, with the intention of dissolving the obstruction of the breast, could obtain no other result than a very profound sleep, during which her sensibility seemed annihilated, her ideas, however, remaining quite lucid. He proposed to Mr. Cloquet to operate her while she should be plunged into the magnetical sleep. This surgeon, who had

already judged the operation necessary, agreed, and it was decided that it would take place the following Sunday, 12th of April. During the two days previous, Mme. Plantin was repeatedly magnetized by Mr. Chapelain, who disposed her while she was in somnambulism to suffer the operation without fear, and who succeeded so well as to lead her to converse with assurance about it; whereas, in the wakeful state, she rejected the idea of it with horror.

The day appointed for the operation, Mr. Cloquet, at his arrival at half past ten o'clock in the morning, found the patient dressed, and sitting on an arm-chair in the position of a person quietly delivered up to the natural sleep. There was about one hour since she had returned from church, which she used to attend at the same time. Mr. Chapelain had caused her to pass into the magnetical sleep since her return; the patient spoke with the greatest calm of the operation she was about to undergo. Everything being ready for the operation, she undressed herself and sat on the chair.

Mr. Chapelain sustained the right arm, the left one was left hanging down by the side of the body. Mr. Pailloux, an *eleve interne* of the Hospital St. Louis, had the care of presenting the instruments and of making the ligatures. A first incision was carried above the tumor

to the internal face of the pap. The second, starting from the same point, surrounded the tumor below, and was carried to the meeting with the first. Mr. Cloquet carefully dissected the swelled ganglions, because of their vicinity to the exillary artery, and extirpated the tumor. The operation lasted from ten to twelve minutes. During that length of time, the patient continued quietly to converse with the operator, and did not give the slightest token of sensibility; *no alteration either in the breathing or the voice; no motion in the limbs, the features, or even in the pulse was manifested;* the patient continued in the same state of indifference and automatous impassability in which she was a few minutes before the operation commenced. It was not necesary to constrain her; she was sustained only. A ligature was applied to the lateral thoracik artery, that had been opened during the extraction of the ganglions. The wound having been brought together by some adhesive plasters, and dressed, the patient was put to bed, still in a state of somnambulism, in which she was left during forty-eight hours. One hour after the operation, a slight hemorrhagy manifested itself, but without any bad consequence. The first dressing apparatus was taken off on the following Tuesday; the wound was cleansed and dressed anew; the patient showed no feeling; the pulse preserved its usual motion.

After this dressing operation, Mr. Chapelain awoke the patient, whose magnetic sleep had lasted two days. She appeared to have no idea, no feeling of what had happened; but on hearing that the operation had been performed, and seeing her children around her, she testified a very lively emotion, which the magnetizer stopped by putting her immediately to sleep.

The commission had, in their two observations, the most evident proof of the absence of sensibility during somnambulism: and it declares that, although it has not witnessed the last one, yet it finds it bearing such a stamp of truth, (and besides, it was testified to,) and repeated by so excellent an observer (Mr. Cloquet) who had communicated it to the section of surgery, that it has not feared to present it to you as the most indisputable testimony of that state of torpor and numbness determined by magnetism.

While the commission was endeavoring to appreciate, by proper experiments, the faculty of putting into motion without contact, the contractibility of Mr. Petit's muscles, some other attempts were made upon him, to observe a peculiar kind of lucidity, (clairvoyance) the vision or faculty of seeing through the eye-lids closed, of which he was said to be endowed during the state of somnambulism. The magnetizer had announced to us that this somnambule would recognise between

twelve pieces of money that which he (Mr. Dupotet) should have in his hands. The reporter placed in it a five frank piece, marked at the millesim of the year XIII, (of the French republic) and mixed it up afterwards with twelve others that he ranged in a circle on a table. Mr. Petit designated one of these pieces; but it was by the millesim of the year 1812. Afterwards, a watch, the hands of which had been altered, in order that they should mark a wrong time, was presented to him, and twice in succession Mr. Petit mistook their direction. These errors Mr. Dupotet accounted for by telling us that Mr. Petit was not so lucid since he was so seldom magnetized; and yet, at that very sitting, the reporter played with him a game of *piquet*; and he often tried to deceive him, in announcing a card or a color differently from what it really was, and these attempts at deception on the part of the reporter did not prevent Mr. Petit from playing carefully and knowing the color of his adversary's card. We must add that whenever we interposed a body, such as a sheet of paper or a piece of pasteboard between his eyes and the object to be designated, Mr. Petit could distinguish nothing.

If these trials had been the only ones by which we had endeavored to recognize that "*clairvoyance*," we might have concluded from it that this somnambule did not possess it, but in the follow-

ing experiment, that faculty was exhibited in all its power, and at this time the success was altogether according to Mr. Dupotet's promises.

Mr. Petit was magnetized on the 15th of March, 1826, at half past eight in the evening, and put to sleep in about one minute. The president of the commission, Mr. Bourdois, ascertained that the number of pulsations had diminished by twenty-two per minute since he was asleep, and even that the pulse was somewhat irregular. Mr. Dupotet, after having set a blind upon Mr. Petit's eyes, repeatedly directed his fingers in point upon him at the distance of about two feet. Immediately, a violent contraction was manifested in the hands and feet, upon which the action was directed. Mr. Dupotet, having likewise approached the feet of Mr. Petit, yet without contact, he withdrew them with quickness. He complained feeling in the limbs acted upon, a smart pain and a burning heat. Mr. Bourdois tried to produce the same effects; he also obtained them, but slowly and in a feeble degree.

This point being well established, we occupied ourselves with verifying the somnambule's "*clairvoyance.* In the first place, we directed all our attention to establish that his eye-lids were exactly closed. In that view, a light was held up almost constantly before Mr. Petit's eyes at the distance of one or two inches, and many persons

kept looking at them all the time. None could perceive the least opening between them; nay, Mr. Ribes, of the academy, noticed that the edges of them were closed in such a manner as the lids were crossing each other. After these preliminary observations, we went about verifying the phenomenon of the *vision through the eyes closed.*

Mr. Ribes presented a catalogue that he drew from his pocket. The somnambule, after some efforts, read very distinctly these words; "Lavater il est bien difficile de connaitre les hommes: (It is very difficult to know men;) these last words were printed in very fine characters. Then a passport was put under his eyes, he recognized and designated it by the name of *passe homme.* A few moments after, a permit and bill to *carry arms* was substituted for the passport, and was presented to Mr. Petit on the blank side, he could recognize only that it was a piece framed and pretty like the former one; the permittance was turned up; then, after a few moments of attention, he says what it is, and reads very distinctly these words, 'De par le Roi,' (the king allows) and on the left, 'port d'armes (permit to carry arms.) A letter opened was showed again to him; he said he could not read it, because he did not understand the English language. Indeed, the language was written in English. Mr. Bourdois, the president of the commission, took from his pocket a tobacco-box, upon which there

was a little figure in relievo framed with gold. The somnambule says that he sees the emblem of faithfulness. Being urged to say what this emblem was, he added, I see a dog, he is standing up before an altar. This was indeed the figure represented. A closed letter was presented to him, he could not read the contents of it; he followed very well the direction of the lines with his fingers, but he could read very distinctly the address of it, though it contained a name rather difficult, *Mr. de Rockensbrock*. These experiments wearied Mr. Petit very much. He was allowed to rest an instant; afterwards, as he was very fond of playing cards, we proposed to him, as a way of resting, to play a game. If the experiments of mere curiosity contradict and tire him, he performed with the greatest ease and dexterity what pleased him, and that to which he was naturally inclining. One of the assistants, Mr. Raynal, an ancient inspector at the university, played a hand of *piquet* with him, and lost. Mr. Petit managed the cards with a wonderful agility, without mistaking one. They tried to put him in fault, by taking off or altering the cards, but all was in vain. During all this performance, the assistants had not ceased to hold a light before Mr. Petit's eyes, and to examine them with attention; they were found constantly closed.

While Mr. Petit was playing a second game of

piquet, Mr. Dupotet, at Mr. Ribes's suggestion, directed from behind his hand towards the somnambule's elbow. The contraction previously observed was produced again. Afterwards, at Mr. Bourdois proposition, he magnetized him also behind, and still at one foot distant, with the intention of awakening him. The eagerness with which the somnambule played, counteracted that action, and caused that, although not awaking him, he was troubled by it. Several times he brought his hand behind his head, as though he felt pain in that part. At last, he fell into a state of drowsiness that resembled a pretty slight natural sleep, and one of us having spoken to him in that state, he suddenly opened his eyes. A little while after, Mr. Dupotet, yet placed near him, but at some distance, put him again into the magnetic sleep, and the experiments were resumed. Mr. Dupotet, wishing that not a least shadow of doubt should remain about the nature of a physical action exercised at will on the somnambule, proposed to put as many bandages as we would choose on Mr. Petit's eyes, and to act upon him in that state. Indeed, we covered his face down to the nostrils with several handkerchiefs; we filled up with gloves the cavity formed by the prominence of the nose, and we covered up the whole with another black cravat falling in the shape of a veil down to the neck. Then the

attempts of the action at a distance were made again in every possible manner, and constantly the same motions were manifested in the parts towards which the hand or feet were directed.

After these trials were over, Mr. Dupotet took away Mr. Petit's bandages, and played with him a game of *ecarte* in order to divert his mind. He played with the same ease and skillfulnss as before, and gained again. He was so eager in his game, that he remained insensible to the influence of Mr. Bourdois, who tried, but in vain, to act upon him behind, and to cause him to execute a certain motion at his command.

After his game was finished, the somnambule got up, walked across the parlor, removing the chairs that he found in his way, went and sat down in a retired place, to rest awhile, far from the curious persons and the experimenters who had fatigued him. There, Mr. Dupotet awakened him at several feet distance; but this awakening was incomplete, for a few moments after, he fell drowsy again; it was necessary to make new efforts to awaken him completely.

Being awakened, he says that he recollects nothing of what happened during his sleep.

Certainly, if, as Mr. Burdois expressed it a part in the process-verbal of that sitting, "*the constant immobility of the eye-lids and the closing of their edges in such a manner as the lids seemed*

crossing each other, are sufficient warranties of the clairvoyance (faculty of seeing) of this somnambule through the eye-lids, it is impossible, at least, not to wonder at all that happened during that sitting, and not to desire to witness some new experiments of the same kind, in order to be able to establish one's opinion on the existence and value of animal magnetism."

The wish expressed by our president did not last long before receiving its full execution in three other somnambules, who, besides that *clairvoyance* observed on the former one, presented proofs of a remarkable degree of *intuition prevision*, and both concerning themselves and other persons.

Here the sphere seemed te be enlarged; it no longer matters tosatisfy a mere curiosity, to endeavor ascertaining whether it does exist a token that may enable us to pronounce that somnambulism is real or feigned, whether a somnambule can read, his eyes being closed, and indulge himself, while sleeping, with more or less complicated combinations of games, such questions are curious, interesting and their solution (especially of the last one) is, as a spectacle, a very extraordinary phenomena; but with respect to the hopes on the benefit that medecine might derive from them, they are by far below those which the commission is going to communicate to you.

There are none of you, gentlemen, who in all

that you have heard of magnetism, have not been told of that faculty of certain somnambules, not only to determine the kind of disease they are affected with, the duration and mode of termination of those diseases, but also the kind, duration and termination of the diseases of persons with which they were put in communication. The three following observations seemed to us so important, that we thought it a duty to make them known to you in their whole length, as presenting very remarkable instances of that intuition and prevision ; you will also find in them all the various phenomena which were not observed in the other magnetized individuals.

Paul Villagrand, a student at law, born at Magnac laval (haute Vienne) on the 18th of May, 1803, was struck, on the 25th of December, 1825, with a fit of apoplexy, with palsy of all the left side of the body. After seventeen months of various treatments by the acupuncture, a seton below the occiput, twelve moxas applied along the vertebral column, which treatment had been followed either at his own house, at the infirmary, or *at the hospital of perfectionment*, and during the course of which he had had two new attacks, he was admitted, on the 8th of April, 1827, at the Hospital de la Charite. Although he had received a notable relief by the means he had used before his entrance into that hospital, he still walked with

crutches, and could not sustain himself on the left foot. The arm of the same side could perform various motions, but Paul was not able to lift it up to his head. He could hardly see with his left eye, and had very imperfect hearing of both ears. He was in such a state, when he was trusted to the hands of our colleague, Mr. Fouquier, who, besides the very evident paralysy, discovered in him symptoms of an hypertrophy of the heart.

During five months, he administered to him the alcoholic extract of *nux vomica*, had him bled occasionally, purged him, and ordered that blisters should be applied to him. The left arm regained some strength, — the pain he had in his head became farther apart, and its state remained the same until the 29th of August, 1827; at that epoch, he was for the first time magnetized by Dr. Foissac, agreeably to the invitation and under the direction of Mr. Fouquier. In that first sitting, he felt a sensation of general heat, and afterwards some quick motion in his tendons. He was surprised to be pervaded, so to speak, by an inclination to sleep; rubbed his eyes to counteract it; made visible but fruitless efforts to keep his eye-lids opened. Finally, his head bent down, and he fell asleep. From that very moment, his deafness and headach have ceased. It was but in the 9th sitting that the sleep became profound; and in the 10th he was able to answer by inarticulated

sound, the questions that were asked him; at a later period, he announced that he could be cured only by magnetism, and prescribed to himself synapisms, Bareges baths, and the continuation of the pills, made of extract of *nux vomica*. On the 25th of September, the commission repaired to the *Hospital de la Charite*, and ascertained, by a proper examination, that the left inferior limb was manifestly thinner than the right one; that the right hand was much stronger than the left; that the tongue, being drawn out from the mouth, was brought towards the right commissure, and that, in the act of *buccination*, the right cheek was more rounded out than the left.

Paul was magnetized, and soon entered into somnambulism. He told over again all that concerned his treatment, and prescribed that on the same day a synopism should be applied during one hour and a half on each leg; that the next day he should take a Barages bath, and that soon after the bath, synapisms should be set on him during twelve hours without interruption, now at one place, then at another; that on the day following after taking a second Barages bath, a pallet and a half of blood should be extracted from the right arm. Finally, he added that in following this treatment, on the 28th, viz: three days after, he could walk without crutches in going out from the sitting room; he said, also, that it would be necessary to

magnetize him in that last sitting. The treatment indicated by Paul was followed; and on the said day, the 28th of September, the commission repaired to the Hospital de la Charite. The patient walked, leaning on his crutches, to the conference room, when he was magnetized as usually, and put in the state of somnambulism. In that state he assured that he could return to his bed without crutches or support. Having been awaked, he asked for his crutches; but we answered him that he needed them no longer. Indeed, he rose, sustained himself on his palsied leg, crossed the crowd that followed him, walked down the stairs of the experiment room, crossed the second yard of the hospital, stepped up two stairs, and having reached the lower part of the stair-case of the establishment, he sat down. After resting two minutes, he walked up (helping himself with a hand, and leaning on the railing,) the twenty-four stairs that lead to his sleeping room; he went to his bed without support, sat again one moment, and executed a new walk through the ward; all the patients who had hitherto seen him confined to his bed were in the greatest amazement. From that day, Paul never resumed his crutches.

The commission met again on the 11th of October following, at the Hospital de la Charite. He was magnetized, and announced that he would be completely cured at the end of the year, if a seton

was applied at two inches below the region of the heart. In that sitting, he was pinched several times; a pin was thrust one line deep, into his brows and his wrist; he gave no sign of feeling.

On the 16th of October, Mr. Fouquier received from the general council of the hospitals a letter, by which he was directed to terminate the magnetical experiments that he had commenced at the Hospital de la Charite. Therefore, we were obliged to cease the use of magnetism, the efficiency of which the patient said was much to his satisfaction. Mr. Foissac then caused him to leave the hospital, and placed him in a house in the rue des Petits Augustins, in a private room, in which he pursued his former treatment.

On the 29th of the same month, the commission resorted to the private room, in order to examine the progress of his cure; but before magnetizing him, we noticed that he walked without crutches,—nay, that his gait appeared firmer than at the preceeding sitting. Afterwards we caused him to try his strength by the dynamometre. Having been pressed down by his right hand, the needles marked thirty kilogramms, and only twelve by the left hand; it marked thirty-one by both hands united. He was magnetized; in four minutes, somnambulism manifested itself, and Paul assured them that he would be completely cured on the 1st of January. We

tried his strength; the right hand caused the needle to mark twenty-nine kilogramms (one less than before the sleep,) and the left hand (the palsied one) twenty-six, (fourteen more than before sleep,) both hands united marked forty-five, (fourteen more than before.) Always, in the state of somnambulism, he got up to walk, and moved about with rapidity; jumped on the left foot; kneeled on the right knee, and rose again, sustaining himself with the left hand on one of the assistants, and in causing all the weight of the body to be borne on the left knee. He took hold of Mr. Thillaye and lifted him up, made him move round upon himself, and resumed his seat, holding him on his knees. He drew with all his might the dynamometre, and caused the scale of traction to mark sixteen myriagramms. Having been invited to go down the stairs, he abruptly left his armchair, took Mr. Foissac's arm, which he abandoned at the door, went down stairs and ran up again two and even three steps at a leap, with a convulsive rapidity, that, however, he mitigated when we told him to ascend them only one at a time. As soon as he was awaked, he lost that astonishing increase of strength; then, indeed, the dynamometre marked but three myriagramms and three quarters, viz: twelve and a quarter less than before his awakening. His gait was slow, but firm; he was not able to bear the weight of his body on

his left leg, (the palsied one) and he tried, but in vain, to lift Mr. Foissac.

We ought to note down, gentlemen, that a few days before this last experiment, the patient had lost two pounds and a half of blood, that he still had two blisters on his legs, a seton on the back part of his neck, and another on his breast; therefore you will perceive with us that magnetism had determined a very prodigious increase of strength in the sick organs whereas the sound one remained the same; since, during all the state of somnambulism, the whole strength of the body had been more than quadrupled.

Paul gave up afterwards all sort of medical treatment. He wished only to be magnetized; and towards the end of the year, as he expressed the desire to be put, and kept during eight days in somnambulism, in order that his cure might be completed on the 1st of January, he was magnetized on the 25th of December; and from that day, he remained in somnambulism until the first of January.

During that length of time, he was awaked at various and unusual intervals, for an average time of twelve hours; and in these short intervals, we left him believing that he had been sleeping only a few hours. During all his sleep, his digestive functions were performed with unusual activity.

He was sleeping for three days, when, accompanied by Mr. Foissac, he set out on foot, on the 28th of December, from Mondovi street, and visited Mr. Fouquier, at the Hospital de la Charite, where he arrived at nine o'clock. He recognized there the patients near whom he had been laying before his leaving the hospital, the pupils who had the care of the hall and read (with his eyes being closed, and a finger applied to both his lids,) some words presented to him by Mr. Fouquier.

All that we had been witnessing appeared to us so astonishing, that the commission, desiring to follow to its end the history of this somnambule, met on the 1st of January at Dr. Foissac's, where it found Paul who had been sleeping since the 25th of December. He had ordered, fifteen days previous, the suppressing of the setons he bore on the back part of his neck and on his chest, and had caused a cautery, that he said he should retain all his life, to be established on his left arm. Moreover, he declared that he was cured; that if he was guilty of no imprudence, he should reach an old age; that he should sink under a fit of apoplexy. Having been awaked, he went out from Mr. Foissac's house, walked and ran through the street with a firm and assured step. At his return, he carried with the greatest ease one of the assistants, whom he could not have lifted up during his sleep, but with difficulty.

January the 12th, the commission met again at Mr. Foissac's, where was present Mr. Emmanual de las Cases, of the chamber of deputies, the count de Rumigny the first aide-de-camp of the king, and Mr. Segalas, a member of the academy. Mr. Foissac told us that he was going to put Paul to sleep; that, in the state of somnambulism, one finger could be applied on each of his eyes, closed; and that, notwithstanding so complete a closing of the eye-lids, he could distinguish the color of cards, read the title of a work, and some words or lines indicated by chance in the very middle of the work. At the end of two minutes of magnetical gestures, Paul was plunged into sleep, his eye-lids being held constantly shut, alternately by Messrs. Fouquier, Itard, Marc, and the reporter, a pack of new cards, tied up with a band of paper, was presented to him; the band was torn, the cards mixed up, and Paul easily and successively recognized the king of spades, ace of clubs, queen of spades, the nine of clubs, the seven of diamonds, queen of diamonds, and eight of diamonds. We presented to him, his eyes being kept shut by Mr. Segalas, a volume that the reporter had provided. He read the title: 'Histoire de France', (a history of France) He could not read the two intermediary lines, and read on the fifth one the name of Anquetel, alone, that was preceeded by the preposition *par*. We opened the book at the eighty-ninth page, and he

read on the first line '*le nombre de ses*,' (he omitted the word '*troupes*,' and proceeded on:) '*du moment ou on le croyait le plus occupe des plaisirs du Carnaval.*' He likewise read the title 'Louis,' but could not read the Roman cypher that was following. A bit of paper was presented to him, on which one of us had just written the words *agglutination* and *animal magnetism*. He spelt the first one and pronounced the two others. Finally, we presented to him the process-verbal of this sitting; he read pretty distinctly the date of it and some words written in a more legible manner than others. In all these experiments, the fingers of some of us were applied on the whole commissure of each eye; in pressing the superior eye-lid on the inferior from upward downwards, we noticed that the eye-ball had been in a constant motion of rotation, and seemed to direct itself towards the object submitted to the vision.

On the 2d of February, Paul was put in the state of somnambulism at Messrs. Scribe and Bremards, merchants, rue St. Honore, No. 296. The reporter of the commission was the only one present at the experiment. Paul's eyes were kept shut, as in the preceeding sitting, and he read in the work entitled '*Les mi'le et une Nuits*,' the title, the word *preface*, and the first line of that preface, in omitting, however, the word *peu*. Another work, entitled '*Lettres de deux Amies*,' by Mme.

Campan was also presented to him. He distinguished in a picture Napoleon's figure; he pointed out his boots; and said that he saw two women. Afterwards he read very readily the first four lines of page three, with the exception of the word *raviver*. Finally he recognized, without touching them, four cards that we successively presented to him, two after two.

In another sitting, which took place on the 13th of March, Paul tried, but in vain, to distinguish various cards applied on his epigastrium; but he read again, his eyes being shut, in a book opened by chance, and this time his eye-lids were kept closed by Mr. Jules Cloquet; the reporter also wrote on a bit of paper two proper names; Maximilier, Robespiere, which he likewise read well,

The conclusions to be drawn from this long and curious observation, are easy. They naturally flow from the plain exposition of the facts we have related, and we establish them as follows: — 1st. *A patient, whom a rational treatment prescribed by one of the most distinguished practicians of the capital could not cure of palsy, is cured by the use of magnetism, and by the exactitude with which the treatment that he ordered to himself while in the state of somnambulism was followed.* 2d. In that state, his strength was increased in a remarkable manner. 3d. He gave us the most indisputable proofs that he could read with his

eyes shut. 4th. He foresaw the time of his cure, and that cure actually took place.

The following observation will show you that *prevision* still more developed in a man of a low class, quite ignorant, and who certainly never had heard of magnetism before.

Pierre Cazot, of the age of twenty, a hatter, born from an epileptic mother, was liable for ten years to fits of epilepsy, that returned five or six times a week, when he entered the Hospital de la Charite, on the first of August, 1827. He was immediately magnetized by Mr. Foissac; was put to sleep at the third sitting, and became a somnambule at the tenth, which took place on the 19th of August; in that sitting, at nine o'clock in the morning, he announced that the same day, at four o'clock in the afternoon, he would have a fit of epilepsy, but that it could be prevented by magnetizing him a little while previous. We preferred to verify the exactitude of his prevision, and no care was taken to prevent the fit. We contented ourselves with observing him, he being not aware of it. At one o'clock, he was seized with a violent headach; at three, he was compelled to go to his bed; and at four exactly the fit came on; it lasted five minutes. The day after the next, Cazot being in somnambulism, Mr. Fouquier thrust suddenly a pin an inch long between the fore-finger and thumb of his right hand; pierced

with the same pin the lobe of his ear; we brought apart his eye-lids, hit several times his *conjonctive* with a pin's head, and he gave not the least token of sensibility.

The commission repaired to the Hospital de la Charite, on the 24th of August, at nine o'clock in the morning, to attend the experiments that Mr. Fouquier, a member, intended to make on this patient. In that sitting Mr. Foissac placed himself in front, and at six feet distant from Cazot; fixed his eyes upon him, made no motion with his hands, kept the most complete silence, and Cazot fell asleep in eight minutes. A flask filled with ammoniac was put three times under his nose; his face became red and his breathing accelerated by it, but he was not awaked. Mr. Fouquier thrust into his fore arm, a pin of an inch in length. Another was introduced two lines deep obliquely into his sternum; a third one also obliquely into his epigastrium, and a fourth perpendicularly into the sole of his foot. Mr. Guersait pinched his fore arm so violently as to cause an ecclymosis; Mr. Itard leant on his thigh with all the weight of his body. We tried to tickle him by carrying a bit of paper under his nose, on his lips, brows, lids, neck, and the soles of his feet: nothing could awake him. We urged him with questions. How many fits more shall you have? They will continue one year. Do you know

whether they will take place near each other? No. Shall you have one this month? I shall have one on Monday, the 27th, at twenty minutes past three. Will it be violent? Not half so violent as the last one. On what day shall you have another attack? After a motion of impatience, he answers — in fifteen days from this, viz: on the 7th of September. At what o'clock? At ten minutes before six in the morning.

The sickness of one of Cazot's children obliged him to leave la Charite on that day, the 24th of August. But it was agreed upon to have him return there on Monday, the 27th, in the morning, in order to observe the fit he had announced as being to take place on that day, at twenty minutes to three. But the porter of the hospital having refused to receive him when he presented himself at the gate, he went to Mr. Foissac's, to complain about the refusal. This gentleman preferred, as he said to us, to prevent that fit through magnetism, than to be the only witness of it; therefore, we were not able to verify the exactitude of that prevision. But we had to observe again the fit announced for the 7th of September. Mr. Fouquier having caused Cazot to enter the hospital on the 6th, in order that he might receive those attentions that it would not have been possible to receive elsewhere, had him magnetized in the course of the Sunday, by Mr. Foissac, who put

him to sleep by the sole action of his will, and the fixedness of his look. In that sleep, Cazot repeated that on the next day he would have a fit at ten minutes to six, which might be prevented by magnetizing him a little while previous. At a signal previously agreed upon and given by Mr. Fouquier, Mr. Foissac, of the presence of whom Cazot was not aware, awakened him as he had made him sleep, by the act of his will, in spite of the questions that were asked to this somnambule, with no other intent than to keep him in ignorance about the moment he was to be awakened.

In order to witness the second fit, the commission met on the 7th of September, at a quarter before six in the morning, in St. Michael ward, at *la Charite*. There it was informed that the day previous, at eight o'clock in the evening, Cazot had been seized with a pain in his head, with which he had been troubled all the night; that that pain had caused him the sensation of a chime, and that he had had darting pains in his ears. At ten minutes to six, we witnessed the epileptic fit, characterized by the stiffness and contraction of the limbs, the brisk repeatedly throwing back of the head, the bending back of the body, the convulsive closing up of the eye-lids, the retraction of the eye-ball towards the upper part of the orbit, sighs, cries, insensibility to pinching, and the starting of the tongue between the teeth. These symptoms

lasted five minutes, during which there were two remissions of a few seconds each, and afterwards a sensation of general fatigue, as if the limbs were broken down.

On the 10th of September, at seven o'clock in the evening, the committee met at Mr. Itard's house, in order to pursue its experiments on Cazot. This one was in the study, where a conversation was held with him until half past seven o'clock; at that moment, Mr. Foissac, who had arrived after him, and had remained in the entrance separated from the study by two closed doors, and at the distance of twelve feet, commenced magnetizing him. Three minutes after, Cazot said: I believe that Mr. Foissac is there, for I feel drowsy. In the course of eight minutes he was completely asleep. We questioned him, and he assured us again that in three weeks from that day, on the 1st of October, he would have an epileptic fit at two minutes before twelve o'clock.

It was important to observe with as much care as we had already done on the 27th of September, the epileptic fit that had been predicted for the 1st of October. Therefore, the commission repaired, the same day, at half past seven o'clock, to Mr. Georges', a hat manufacturer, rue des Manebriers, No. 17, where Cazot was living and working. We were informed by Mr. Georges, that Cazot was a workman of regular and excellent conduct,

incapable, either by the simplicity of his mind or by his morality, to lend himself to the least deception; that he had had no epileptic fit since the last one witnessed by the commission at the Hospital de la Charite; that, feeling unwell, he had kept his room all day, and had done no labor; that there was in the present moment in his room an intelligent man, the veracity and discretion of whom could be relied upon; that this man had not told him that he had foretold an attack for this day; that it appeared as a thing well proved, that since the 10th of September, Mr. Foissac had had some relation with Cazot, without inferring from it, however, that he had spoken to him of his prediction, and that, on the contrary, Dr. Foissac attached a very great importance to keeping the patient in ignorance of what he had announced. At five minutes of twelve, Mr. Georges proceeded to a room situated above that of Cazot; and one minute after, he ran down, and told us that the fit was actually taking place. We walked up in haste, Messrs. Guersent, Thillage, Marc, Gueneau de Mussy, Itard, and the reporter, all at once, to the sixth story; we arrived at one minute to twelve, the precise time, by the watch of a member of the commission. We surrounded Cazot's bed, and found that the fit was characterized by the following symptoms. A tetanick stiffness of the trunk and limbs; the throwing back of the head, and at

times of the trunk; a convulsive withdrawing upwards of the eye-ball, the white of the eye alone being visible; a very strong injection of the face and neck; contraction of the jaws; partial fibrillary convulsions of the muscles of the right forearm; soon after, so violent an opisthotonos that the trunk was lifted up in forming an arch of a circle, and that the body had no other support than the head and the feet. A few moments after that attack, viz: after one minute of calm, a new fit similar to the preceding, declared itself. We heard some inarticulated sounds; the patient's breathing was short, irregular, and by sudden motions; the larynx lowering and raising itself rapidly; the pulse throbbed from one hundred and thirty to one hundred and sixty times. There was no foam in the mouth; neither did we notice any contraction of the thumb towards the palm of the hand. After six minutes had elapsed, the fit terminated by sighs, the relaxing of the limbs and the opening of the eye-lids. The patient fixed his eyes upon the assistant with an air of astonishment; he complained of being broken down, and said that he had this feeling especially in his right arm.

Although the commission could not doubt the action, evident enough, of magnetism upon Cazot, even he being not aware of it, and at a certain distance, it wished to ascertain by a new proof. As it had been proved in the last sitting that Mr.

Foissac had communicated with him, and might have told him that he had announced an attack of epilepsy that was to take place on the 1st of October, the commission conceived the idea, in suggesting some new experiments on Cazot, to induce Mr. Foissac into error about the day in which his epileptic patient would have an attack, which should have been previously announced. By so doing, we sheltered ourselves from all suspicion of connivance, unless one could suppose that a gentleman whom we had always seen honest and loyal, wished to concert with an uneducated man, destitute of intelligence, to deceive us. We acknowledge that we have no occasion for such an injurious supposition, and we are pleased to do the same justice to Messrs. Dupotet and Chapelain, of whom we had several times occasion to speak to you.

Therefore, the commission met in Mr. Burdois' study, on the 6th of October, at twelve o'clock, the time at which Cazot arrived there with his child. Mr. Foissac had been invited to repair to the same place at half past twelve o'clock; he came at the precise time and remained in the parlor, — Cazot being not informed of it, and having no communication with us. One of us, however, went through a secret door, and told him that Cazot was sitting on a sofa, at the distance of ten feet from a closed door, and that the commission de-

sired to see him put to sleep and awakened at that distance; viz: he, Mr. Foissac remaining in the parlor, and Cazot in the study.

At thirty-seven minutes past twelve, while Cazot was engaged in talking with us, or was looking at the pictures that adorned the room, Mr. Foissac, being placed in the next apartment, began magnetizing him; we noticed that in four minutes, Cazot slightly wrinkled his eye-lids, appeared uneasy, and finally fell asleep in nine minutes. Mr. Guersent, who had taken care of him at the hospital of children, asked of him whether he recognized him. The answer was affirmative. Mr. Itard asked whether he would soon have a fit. He answered in four weeks from that day, on the 3d of November, at five minutes past four o'clock in the evening. We asked him afterwards when he would have another attack. He answered, after a moment of reflection and hesitation, that it would be in five weeks after the one he had just announced on the 9th of November, at half past nine in the morning.

The process-verbal of that sitting having been read in Mr. Foissac's presence, in order that he might sign it with us, we wished, as abovementioned, to induce him into error; and in reading it to him, before having it signed by the members of the commission, the reporter read that the next

attack would take place on Sunday, the 4th of November, whereas the patient had announced it for Saturday, the 3d. It also deceived him as to the other fit, and Mr. Foissac noted down these false indications as if they were true; but having, a few days after, put Cazot in somnambulism, as he used to do to remove his head-ach, he was informed by him that the fit was to take place on the third, and not on the fourth; he spoke of it to Mr. Itard, on the 1st of November, thinking that an error might have slipped into the process-verbal, of which, however, Mr. Itard confirmed the pretended veracity.

The commission again took every possible care to observe the fit of the 3d of November; it repaired at four o'clock to Mr. Georges'; it was informed by him, his wife, and a workman of his, that Cazot had worked, as usual, all the forenoon until two o'clock, and that, in dining, he had felt some headach; that, however, he had come down to resume his work; but the headach increasing, and feeling some dizziness, he had gone again to his room, laid down on his bed, and had fallen asleep. Then Messrs. Bourdois, Fouquier, and the reporter, preceded by Mr. Georges, went to Cazot's chamber. Mr. Georges' entered alone and found him soundly asleep, which he made us notice through a door half opened towards the staircase. Mr. Georges spoke loud to him, shook him, moved

his arms; but he could not be awakened; at six minutes after 4 o'clock, in the midst of Mr. Georges' attempts to awaken him, Cazot was seized with the chief symptoms that characterize a fit of epilepsy, and exactly similar to what we had previously observed on him.

The second attack, announced in the sitting of the 6th of October for the 9th of December, that is two months previous, took place at half past nine o'clock, a quarter of an hour later than it had been predicted, and was characterized by the same precursory phenomena, and the same symptoms as those of the 7th of November.

Finally, on the 11th of February, 1828, Cazot announced another fit for the 22d of April following, at five minutes after twelve o'clock; and that prediction was verified as the preceding ones, but five minutes later, viz: at ten minutes after twelve. That fit, remarkable for its violence, the sort of fury with which Cazot bit his hand and fore-arm by the repeated motions that threw him up on his bed, had lasted for thirty-five minutes, when Mr. Foissac, who was present, magnetized him. The convulsive state soon ceased, to make room for the state of somnambulism, during which Cazot rose, placed himself on a chair, and said that he was very much fatigued; that he would have two fits more; the one in nine weeks from the next day, at three minutes after six o'clock, (25th of

June.) He was not willing to think of the other attack, because it was necessary to occupy himself with what would previously happen, (at this moment he sent away his wife, who was present,) and he added, that about three weeks after the fit of the 25th of June, he would become crazy; that his craziness would last three days, during which, he would be so mad, that he would fight with everybody; that he would even ill-treat his wife and child; that it would be necessary to separate him from them; that he doubted whether he would not kill a person, whom he did not designate. Then it would be necessary to bleed him on both his feet. Finally, said he, *I shall be cured for the month of August; and being once cured I shall never be sick again, whatever circumstance may happen.**

It was on the 22d of April, that these predictions were made; and two days after, on the 24th, Cazot, in trying to stop a mad horse that had taken

* The reader will recollect that at the time Cazot began to be magnetized, he was liable to five or six fits a week. Now, owing to magnetism, his at acks became farther and farther apart; what he foretold was always verified with so great a precision, that it is likely he would have been cured according to his last prediction, if his life had not been abruptly taken away by an unexpected accident. — [NOTE OF THE TRANSLATOR.]

the moise between his teeth, was violently thrown off against the wheel of a chaise, which broke his left orbitary arcade, and horribly mangled him. Having been transported to the Hospital Beargon, he died on the 15th of May. At the opening of his scull, the surgeon found a recent meningite, some purulent gathering under the leguments of the scull, and at the extremity of the choroid plexus a yellowish substance, outwardly white and enclosing some small hydatides.*

We see, in this observation, a young man liable for ten years to epileptic fits, for which he had been successively treated at the Hospital of children, at St. Louis, and exempted from the military service. Magnetism acts upon him, although he is perfectly ignorant of what is done to him; he becomes a somnambule; the symptoms of his com-

* This same man, who foretold with so much exactitude his fits of epilepsy, was not allowed to foresee the unfortunate event that was to end his life. How account for this? I find in a note published by Dr. Foissac, on Cazot, the following words: "From the first time he entered into the state of somnambulism, Cazot had manifested a great tendency to apply his faculty of prevision to the ordinary events of life; but being convinced, by a great many facts, of the danger there is to allow to a somnambule to depart from the circle of disease, I had restrained the tendency of the faculty in him! Who could ever have foreseen that so well motived and laudable a reserve should become perhaps the cause of his death. [NOTE OF THE TRANSLATOR.]

plaint are improved by it; the fits become less frequent; his headach and oppression are removed through the influence of magnetism; he prescribes to himself a treatment appropriate to the nature of his disease, and says that he will recover by it. Having been magnetized, although not aware of it, he fell into somnambulism, and was awakened from that state with the same promptitude as when he was magnetized by immediate contact. In fine, he indicated, with a rare precision, one and two months previous, the day and hour at which he would have a fit. Yet, endowed with prevision for so many remote attacks of epilepsy, more than that, for attacks which will never happen, he did not foresee that, in two days, he would be struck by a mortal accident.

Without contriving to conciliate all that may appear, at a first look, contradictory in such an observation, the commissioner will beg you to notice that Cazot's previsions are related only as to his fits; that they are nothing else but the consciousness of the organical modifications that are preparing themselves, and take place within him, as a necessary result of internal functions; that these previsions, although more extended, are altogether similar to those of certain epileptic persons, who are enabled, through various precursory symptoms, as the headach, vertigo, morosity, the aura epileptica

&c., to recognize that they will very soon have an attack. Would it be surprising that somnambules, the sensation of whom, as you saw it, are exceedingly active and keen, could foresee their fits for a long time in advance, through various internal symtoms and impressions, that escape the attention of a man in the wakeful state: so, gentlemen, we might understand the prevision testified by Areteus, in two passages of his immortal work, by Sauvage, who relates an instance of it, and by Cabanis. We add that Cazot's prevision was not absolute; it was conditional,—since, in foretelling a fit, he announced that it would not take place if he was magnetized; — indeed, it did not take place; that prevision is all organic and internal. Thus we understand why he did not foresee an external event, viz: that he would, by chance, meet a mad horse, which he would be imprudent enough to try to stop, and that he would receive by him a mortal wound. Therefore, he could have foreseen a fit that was never to happen. It is the needle of a watch, which, in a given time, ought to go through a certain portion of the dial, but does not because it is broken.

We have just presented you, in the two foregoing observations, two remarkable instances of *intuition*, of that faculty, which is developed during somnambulism, and through which two magetized

individuals saw the disease with which they were affected, indicated the treatment that suited them, announced their termination and foresaw their fits. The fact we are now going to analyze before you, offered us a new kind of interest. Here, the somnambule pronounces his judgment on the complaint of the persons with whom he is put in contact; he determines the nature of it, and indicates a proper remedy.

Mlle. Celine was put in the state of somnambulism, before the commission, on the 18th and 21st of April, the 17th of June, 9th of August, 23d of December, 1826, 13th and 17th of January, and the 21st of February, 1827. In passing from the wakeful state into somnambulism, she felt a diminution of heat of several degrees, by the thermometer; her tongue became dry and rough, from being wet and supple, as it was before; her breathing, usually soft and agreeable, became fetid in a most repulsive manner.

Her sensibility was entirely lost during her sleep, for she breathed six times while a phial filled with muriatic acid was held under her nose; she shewed no emotion at it. Mr. Marc pinched her wrist; an acupuncture needle was thrust three lines deep into her left thigh, another needle two lines deep into her left wrist. These two needles were united together by a galvanic conductor, and

some very well marked convulsive motions were effected in her hand. Mlle. Celine seemed to be a stranger to what was done upon her. She heard the person who spoke near to her, and in touching her, and she heard not the noise produced by two plates suddenly broken by her side.

It was while she was plunged into that state of somnambulism, that the commission recognized three times in her the faculty of detecting the complaints of the persons she touched, and of indicating the remedies that it was proper to give them.

The commission found among its members a gentleman who was willing to submit himself to the explosion of the somnambule; it was Mr. Marc. Mlle. Celine was requested to carefully examine the state of health of our colleague: she applied her hand on his forehead, and the region of the heart,—and after three minutes, said that the blood was rushing to the head; that Mr. Marc actually had a pain in the left side of that cavity; that he often felt some oppression, especially after his meals; that he was often troubled with a slight cough, that the lower part of the chest was filled up with blood; that something troubled the passage of the food; that the part called the region of the xiphoid (appendix,) had grown narrower; — that to cure Mr Marc, it should be necessary to bleed him in an abundant manner; apply, on the inferior part of the breast, poultices

made with hemlock, and rub it with laudanum; that he should drink lemonade, in which he should dissolve some gum arabic; eat little, and often; finally, that he ought not to walk immediately after eating.

We longed to hear from Mr Marc, whether he had really felt what the somnambule had announced; he said that he had, indeed, some oppression when he walked immediately after his meals; that he was often troubled with cough, and that before the experiment, he had a pain in the left side of his head, but felt no difficulty in the passing down of his food.

We were struck by the analogy that existed between Mr Marc's feeling and that which was announced by the somnambule; we carefully noted it down, and waited for another opportunity to verify again that singular faculty. That opportunity was furnished to the reporter by the mother of a young lady whom he attended, as a physician, for a long time.

Mlle de N***, a daughter of the Marquis of N***, a peer of France, from twenty-three to twenty-five years old, was affected for two years with an ascitis dropsy, accompanied with numerous obstructions, some of the size of an egg, others as large as the fist, some others as big as a child's head, the largest of which were in the left side of the abdomen. The external part of the abdomen

was uneven and bunched; these swellings corresponded with the obstructions contained within the cavity. Mr. Dupuytreu had already performed ten or twelve punctures on that patient, and at each time had extracted a great quantity of a clear limpid inodorous and pure albamine. This was always followed by some relief.

The reporter was three times present at these operations; and it was easy, both to Mr. Dupuytreu and himself, to ascertain the hardness and size of these tumors; and consequently to acknowledge that it would not be possible for them to cure this patient. Nevertheless, they prescribed various remedies, and thought it especially important that Mlle. de N*** should make use of the milk of a goat previously submitted to murcural functions.

On the 21st of February, the reporter brought with him Mr. Foissac and Mlle. Celine to a house, in the street Faubourg-du-Roule, without indicating to them either the name, residence, or the nature of the disease of the person whom he wished to submit to the somnambule's examination.

The patient entered the experiment room only after Mr Foissac had put Mlle. Celine to sleep. Then, after taking one of her hands between hers she examined her during eight minutes, not in the same manner as a physician would do, by pressing upon the abdomen, and scrutinizing it in every

possible manner, but only by slightly and repeatedly applying her hand on her abdomen, her chest, her back and head. Having been asked to let us know what she had observed in Mlle. de N***, she answered that all the abdomen was diseased; that there was a great quantity of water and a schirrous, by the side of the loin; that the bowels were swollen ; that the patient was afflicted with worms; that there were some tumors as large as an egg, in which purulent matter was contained, and that these tumors must be painful ; that there was in the lower part of the stomach, an obstructed gland, as large as three of her fingers ; that this gland was in the inside of her stomach, and must trouble the digestion ; that the disease was of long standing, and that, finally, Mlle. du N***, was liable to headaches. She prescribed the use of a ptisan of borago and dod's-grass, (chendent) with some nitre in it, five ounces of the juice of "*parietaire*," to be taken every morning, and a very little mercury taken in some milk; — she added, that the milk of a goat, previously rubbed with murcural ointment half an hour before milking it, would suit better. Besides, she prescribed some poultices, with flowers, constantly applied on her stomach, frictions on the cavity, with laurel oil, or in case that it could not be procured, with the juice of that shrub mixed with the oil of sweet almonds, a clyster of a decoction of peruvian pow-

der, mixed with another decoction of emollient plants. The patient's food should consist of white meats, milk, farinaceous vegetables; no lemon at all. She permitted very little wine, a little rum perfumed with orange tree flower, or some essence of peppermint. This treatment was not followed, and even should it have been so, it would not have saved the patient. She died a year after; and as no post-mortem examination was made, we could not verify, in all its particulars, the truth of what the somnambule had said.*

In a very delicate case, in which some very skillful physicians, several of whom are members of the Academy, had prescribed a mercurial treatment for an obstruction of the cervical glands, which they thought caused by a siphilitic affection, the family of the patient perceiving that the consequences of this treatment were becoming very alarming, wished to have the advice of a somnambule. The reporter was called to assist at that consultation, and he did not fail to seize that new opportunity to add something else to what the

* Without attaching a very great importance to that singular coincidence of the prescription given by the somnambule, to use the milk of a goat previously rubbed with mercurial ointment, with the same prescription recommended to the patient by Mr. Dupugtrue, and the reporter, the commission thought proper to insert this fact in its work. It presents it, as having been well authenticated by the reporter, without any further explanation.

commission had already seen. He found the patient a young woman — the countess de F***, having all the right side of the neck very much obstructed by a great number of glands, placed near one another ; one of these glands was opened, and emitted a yellowish purulent matter.

Mlle. Celine, having been magnetized by Mr. Foissac, in presence of the reporter, put herself in contact with the patient, and said that her stomach had been attacked by a substance *like poison ;* that the intestines were slightly inflamed ; that there was in the right upper part of the neck a scrofulous malady, that must have been more considerable than at the present moment ; that, in following a treatment she was going to prescribe, there would be some amelioration within a fortnight or three weeks. This treatment consisted of eight leeches applied on the hollow of the stomach, a few grains of magnesia, some decoction of gruel, a saline purgative, every week ; two injections every day, one of which should be of the decoction of Peruvian powder, and immediately after, another of guimauve roots, frictions with ether on the limbs, a bath every week ; and for food, milk, light meats, and abstinence from wine. This treatment was followed for a little while ; and there was already a remarkable improvement. But the impatience of the patient, who thought that she did not regain her

health fast enough, determined her family to ask a new consultation of physicians. They decided that the patient should be submitted to another mercurial treatment. The reporter then ceased to see her, but was informed that in consequence of the use of mercury, the symptoms previously felt in her stomach became so much aggravated, that it had brought her to the grave, after two months of excruciating pains. A process-verbal of *post-mortem examination*, signed by Messrs. Fouquier, Marjolin, Cruvelhier, and Foissac, stated that there was a scrofulous or tuberculous swelling of the glands of the neck, two small excavations filled up with pus, resulting from the dissolving of the tubercules of the upper part of each lung. The muscous membrane of the stomach was almost entirely destroyed. These gentlemen verified also that nothing indicated the existence of a syphilitic disease, either recent or at any former period.

It results from these observations, 1st. That in the state of somnambulism Mlle. Celine recognized the disease of the persons with whom she was put in contact. 2d. That the declaration of one of these persons, the examination that was made of the other, after three punctures, the aulopsy of the third one, were found according to what the somnambule had announced. 3d. That the various treatments prescribed by her do not depart either from the circle of the remedies that she might have known, nor from the order of things that she

might reasonably recommend ; 4th. That she applied them with a sort of discrimination.

To all these facts, that we have collected with so much labor, observed with so much diffidence and attention, that we have endeavored to class in the best possible manner to make you follow the development of the phenomena we have witnessed, that we have especially applied ourselves to present to you free from all the accessory circumstances which might have embarrassed and entangled their exposition, we might add those that the ancient, nay, modern history relates about the prevision that have been often realized, the cures obtained by the imposition of the hand, about oracles, extacies, convulsionar, hallucinations, finally about all that which, by departing from the ordinary physical phenomena, can be accounted for through the action of one body upon another, enters into the sphere of psychology, and may be considered as an effect depending on a moral influence out of the perception of our senses. But the commission was appointed to examine *somnambulism*, to make experiments on that phenomenon which had not been studied by the committee of 1784, and to give an account of it. Therefore, it would have departed from the circle within which it had been circumscribed, if, in seeking to support what it had seen by quoting authorities that might have observed analogous

facts, and it would have enlarged its work with facts foreign to its purpose. It has related with impartiality, what it saw with diffidence; it has exposed with order what it has observed in various circumstances, and followed with a minute and persevering attention.

It has the consciousness that the work it presents to you is the faithful expression of all that it has observed. You are informed of the difficulties which it had to overcome; they were, in a certain measure, the cause of the delay it has caused in making this report, although for a long time the materials were in our hands; — however, we shall not complain, and apologize for this delay, since it gives to our observations a character of maturity and reserve that ought to command your confidence to the facts we have related, instead of the precipitation and enthusiasm with which you might reproach us, had we collected them but on the day previous. We add that it is far from our thought to believe that we have seen everything concerning animal magnetism, and we do not pretend to induce you to admit as an axiom, that nothing is positive in it but what we have mentioned in our report. Far from setting limits to that branch of the physiological science, we, on the contrary, entertain the hope that "*a new field is opened*" before it; and certain as we are of the exactitude of our own observations, present-

ing them with confidence to those who, after us, will occupy themselves with magnetism, we content ourselves to draw the following conclusions, that are the necessary consequence of the facts the whole of which constitute our Report.

Conclusions.

1. The contact with the thumbs or hands, frictions, or certain other gestures made at a little distance from the body, and called *passes* — such are the means used to place one's self in communication, or, in other words, to transmit the action from the magnetizer to the magnetized person. 2. External and visible means are not always necessary, since, in many instances, the steadiness of the look will have been sufficient to produce the magnetical phenomena, even the magnetized individual being not aware of it. 3. Magnetism acts upon persons of both sexes and different ages. 4. The time necessary to transmit the magnetical influence and make it felt, varied from half an hour to one minute. 5. Magnetism, in general, does not act on healthy persons. 6. Neither does it operate on every patient. 7. Sometimes, during the magnetical operation, some insignificant and fugitive effects manifest themselves, but which do not belong to magnetism alone; such as some oppression, heat or cold, and other nervous phe-

nomena, that may be accounted for without the intervention of a particular agent, viz. through hope or fear, the prevention and expectation of an unknown and new thing, the tiresomeness which results from the monotony of gestures, the silence and quiet kept during the experiments, finally by imagination, that exercises so great an empire over certain minds and certain organizations. 8. "*A certain number of the observed phenomena appeared to us as having been produced by magnetism alone, and could not be produced without it. These are physiological and therapeutical phenomena well established.*" 9. The real effects produced by magnetism are very various; it agitates some, calms others; the most usually it causes a momentary acceleration of breathing and circulation, some transient convulsive fibrillary motion, resembling electrical shocks, a numbness more or less deep, some drowsiness, somnolence, and, in a small number of cases, what magnetizers call somnambulism. 10. The existence of a constant and only character, fit to make us recognize in every case the reality of the state of somnambulism, has not been established. 11. However, "*we may conclude with certainty*, that such a state exists, whenever it gives rise to the development of the new faculties designated by the names of *clairvoyance*, *intuition*, *prevision*, or produces some great change on the

physiological state, as *insensibility, a sudden and considerable increase of strength,*" and whenever, finally, that effect cannot be attributed to another cause. 12. As among the effects arising from somnambulism, there are some that can be feigned, somnambulism itself can sometimes be so too; and thus furnish charlatanism with means of deception. Therefore, in the observation of those phenomena, which as yet present themselves only as isolated facts that can be connected with no theory, it is but by a most attentive examination, the severest care, and by numerous and varied trials, that one can escape illusion. 13. The sleep determined with more or less promptitude, and established in a degree more or less profound, is a real, but not constant effect of magnetism. 14. It is a fact, demonstrated too, that it has been determined in such circumstances as the magnetized individuals could neither see nor know the means used to cause it to take place. 15. When a person has been once put to the magnetic sleep, there is no need of recurring to contact and the "*passes*" to magnetize him again. The magnetizer's look, his will alone, have upon him the same influence. In such a case, the magnetized person can be not only acted upon, but also completely thrown into somnambulism; the magnetizer can bring him out of that state, he being not aware of it, out of his sight, at a certain

distance, and even through closed doors. 16. Certain alteratians, more or less marked, are ordinarily produced in the perceptions, in the faculties of those who fall into somnambulism, by the effect of magnetism. (A) Some, in the middle of the noise of confused conversations, hear no other voice than the magnetizer's; many answer in a correct and precise manner the questions asked by him, or other persons who have been brought into contact with them; some others hold conversation with all the assistants; seldom, however, they hear what is going on around themselves. Most of the time, they remain, completely, strangers to external and unexpected noises made at their ear, such as the resounding of copper vases violently struck before them, the falling of furniture, &c. (B) The eyes are closed; the eyelids yield but with difficulty to efforts made with the hands to open them; that operation, which is not free from pain, exhibits the eye-ball convulsed, and turned upwards, and sometimes downwards in the orbit. (C) The sense of smelling is sometimes annihilated; somnambules can breathe into their lungs the muriatic acid or concentrated ammonia, without feeling any trouble by it, even without suspecting it. The contrary exists in some other cases: they are sensible to ordors. (D) Most of the somnambules we have seen were completely destitute of the sense of feeling. We could tickle their feet,

nostrils, and the angle of the eye with a feather; pinch their skin so as to cause an ecchymosis, prick it under the nail with pins suddenly thrust into it to a great depth, without the least token of pain on their part; nay, they seemed not to perceive it. Finally, one of them has been seen who remained insensible to a most painful surgical operation, and in whom neither the face nor the pulse nor the breathing denoted the least emotion. 17. Magnetism has the same strength and intensity of action, and is as quickly felt at a distance of six inches — and the phenomena developed by it are the same in both cases. 18. The action at a distance cannot, as it seems, be exercised with success but on individuals who have already been submitted to magnetism. 19. We did not see any person falling into somnambulism the first time he was magnetized. Somnambulism manifested itself sometimes only in the eighth or tenth sitting. 20. We have constantly seen the ordinary sleep, which is the repose of the organs of sense, of the intellectual faculties, and voluntary motions, preceding and terminating the state of somnambulism. 21. While in somnambulism, the magnetized persons whom we observed preserved the exercise of the faculties they possess during the wakeful state. Nay, their memory seems more faithful and extensive; for they remember what happened all the time and at

every time they were in somnambulism. 22. After awaking, they say that they have totally forgotten every circumstance of the state of somnambulism, and can never recollect it again. To ascertain this, we had no other guarantee than their own declarations. 23. The muscular strength of somnambules is sometimes numbed and palsied. At some other times, their motions are but troubled, and they walk staggering, as drunken men do, without avoiding, and sometimes also in avoiding, the obstacles they meet in their way. There are somnambules who preserve, in all its integrity, the exercise of their limbs; who even become much stronger and smarter than in the wakeful state. 24. We saw two somnambules, who distinguished, their eyes being closed, the objects placed before them; they have designated, without touching them, the color and value of cards; they read words written with the hand, also several lines of books, opened without adhering to any particular page. This phenomenon took place even when the opening of the eyelids was kept exactly closed by the fingers. 25. We met, in two somnambules, the faculty of foreseeing acts of the organization more or less distant and complicated. One of them announced several days, even several months in advance, the day, hour and minute of the invasion and return of epileptic fits. The other indicated the time of his cure. Their previs-

ions were realized with a remarkable precision and exactitude. They seemed to us applied only to acts or lesions of their own organism. 26. We met but one somnambule who indicated the symptoms of the diseases of three other persons with whom they had been put in communication. Yet we had been making investigations about that faculty on a pretty large number of individuals. 27. In order to establish with correctness the relation of magnetism with therapeutics, it would be necessary to have observed the effects of it on a great number of persons, and made, a long time, and every day, experiments on the same patients. The commission, not having done this, ought to have contented itself with saying what it saw in a too small number of cases to dare to pronounce its judgment. 28. Some of the magnetized patients felt no good from it. Others felt a relief, viz. the one, the suspension of habitual pains, another regained his strength ; a third one felt a delay of many months in the return of the epileptic fits, and a fourth the complete cure of a grave and long-continued palsy. 29. Considered as an agent of physiological phenomena, or as a therapeutical means, magnetism should be ranked within the frame of medical knowledge, and consequently physicians alone ought to use and watch over it, as it is already practised in the northern countries of Europe. 30. The commission could not verify,

because it had no opportunity to do so, other faculties that magnetizers had announced as existing in somnambules. But it has collected facts important enough to allow it to believe that *the Academy should encourage and favor researches on magnetism, as being a very curious branch of psychology and natural history.*